TAMARA

Scans & Cleaning:
Totochan
Translations: flyingtomohak
and Belial
Edits: Lythalive
QC: Kalendel & Totochan

Storm in Heaven www.storminheaven.net
k2less http://in2k2.digital-takeout.net
#in2k2@irc.irchighway.net in2k2.k2less@gmail.com

TAMARA

Souryo Fuyumi

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Chapter 3 117

Chapter 2 65

Chapter 1 3

TAMARA

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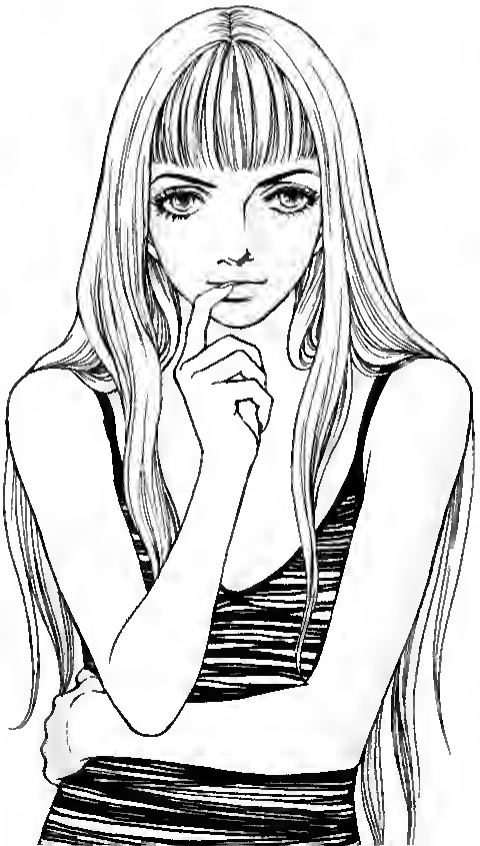
Chapter

TAMARA

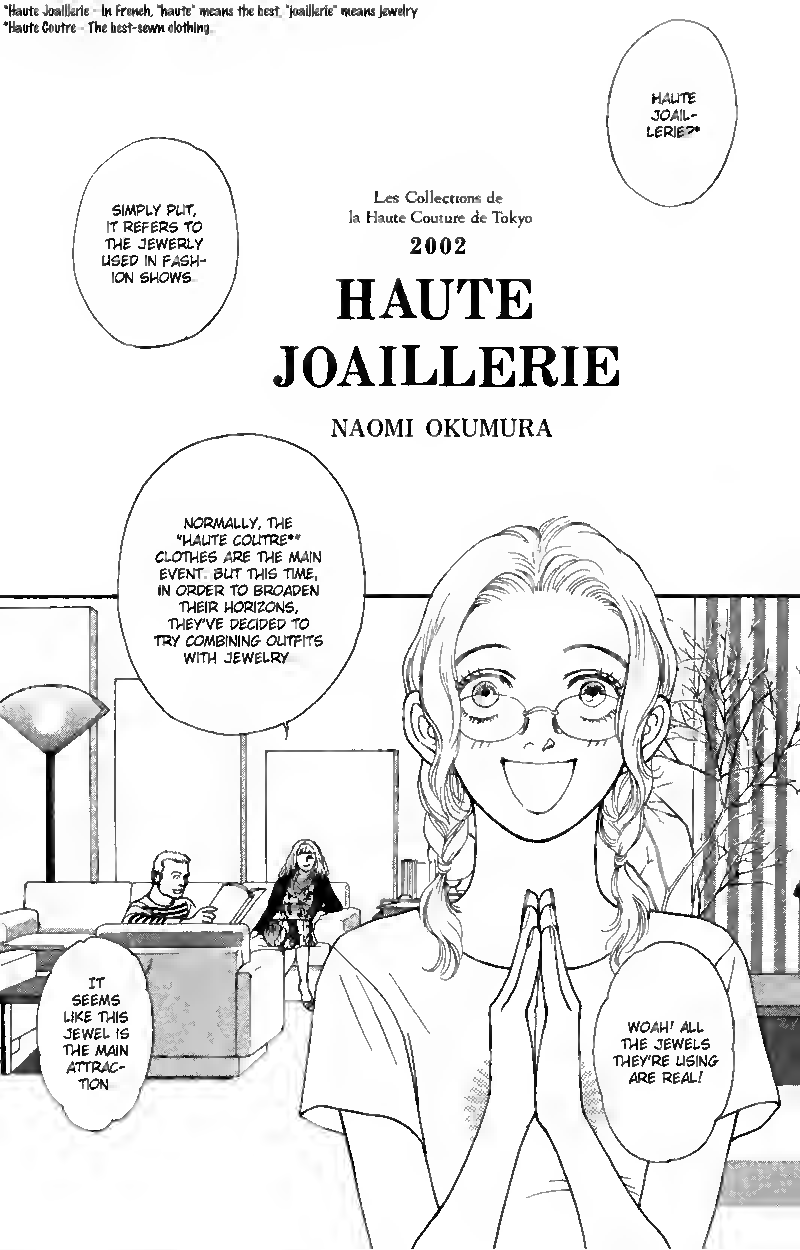


*Haute Joaillerie - In French, "haute" means the best, "joaillerie" means jewelry
*Haute Coutre - The best-sewn clothing

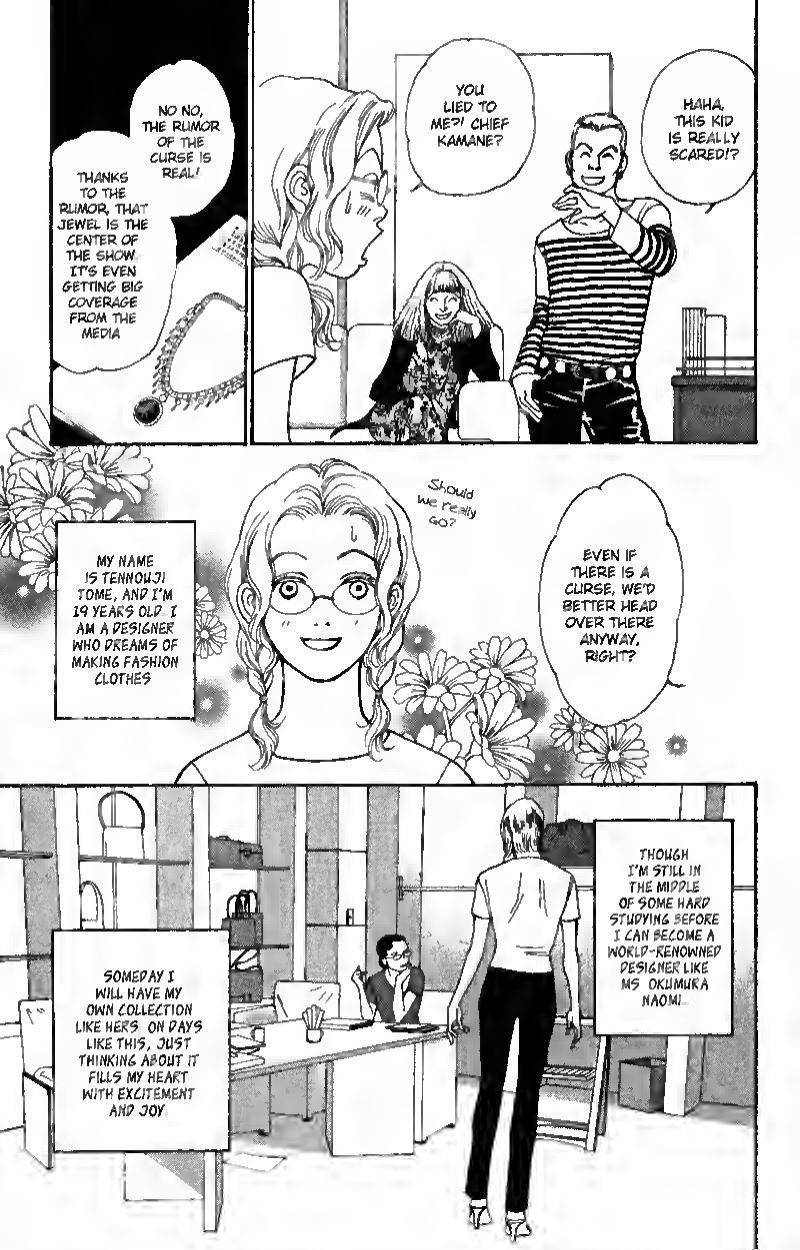
Les Collections de
la Haute Couture de Tokyo
2002

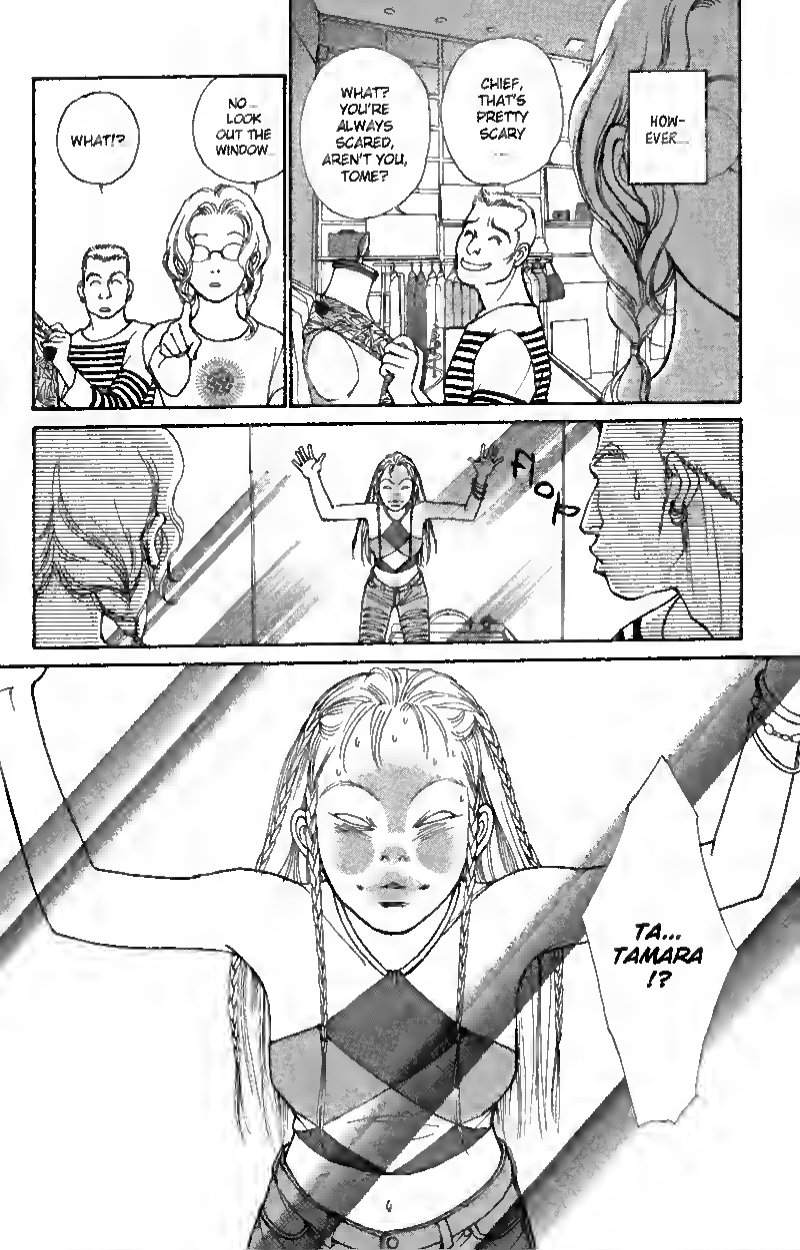
HAUTE JOAILLERIE

NAOMI OKUMURA

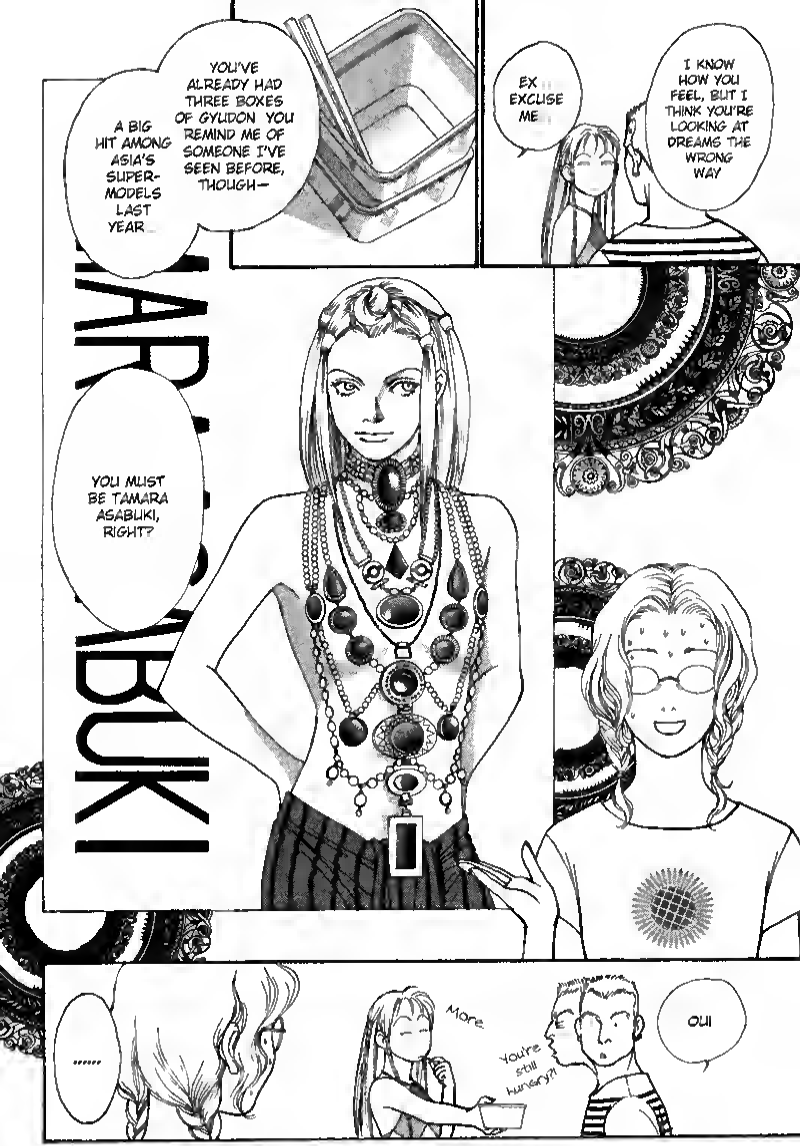


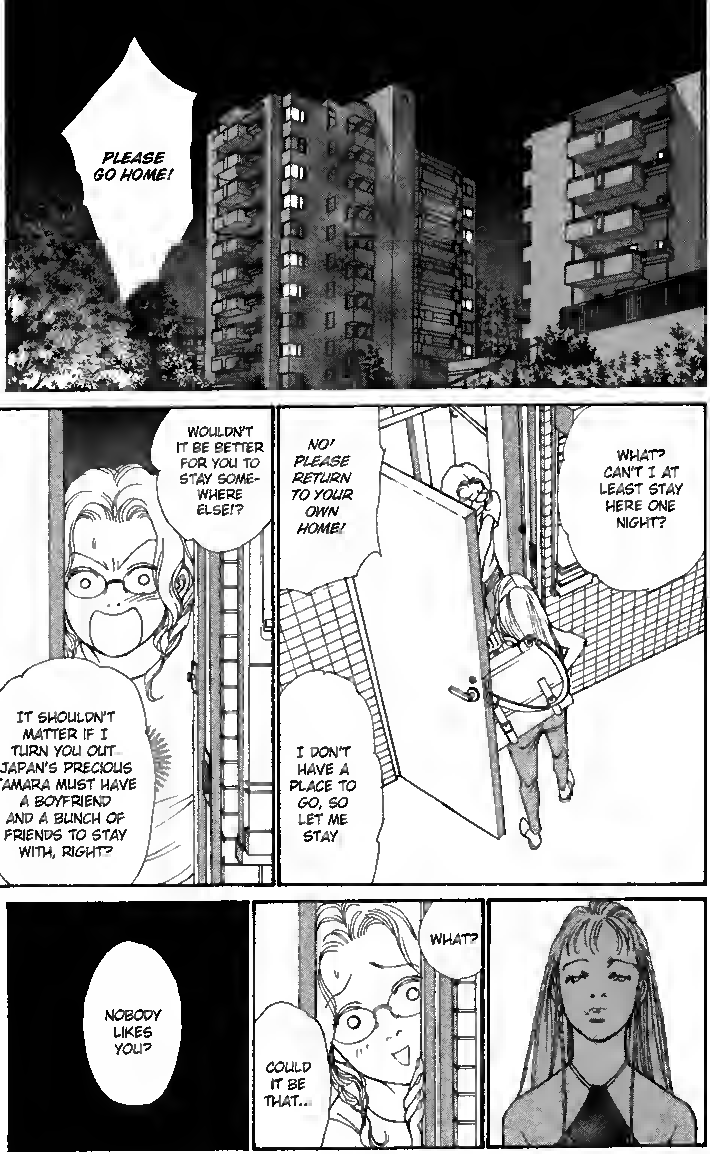
"NIGHT GODDESS," THE WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS SAPPHIRE.
THE OTHER DAY, MS. NAOMI'S CUSTOMER, MRS. TESHIGAWARA, BOUGHT IT AT AN AUCTION. IT'S WORTH OVER TEN BILLION
TEN...
TEN BILLION—!
Jizzy
AND LOOK AT THIS NECKLACE. IT HAS A JEWEL SAID TO BE CURSED TO ATTRACT MISERY.
REAL-LY!?
FILE BOOK
THAT... THAT'D BE SAFE ENOUGH IN A COLLECTION, RIGHT?
COME ON, TOME, IT'S CHILDISH...
TO BELIEVE A RUMOR LIKE THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.


NO NO, THE RUMOR OF THE CURSE IS REAL!
THANKS TO THE RUMOR, THAT JEWEL IS THE CENTER OF THE SHOW. IT'S EVEN GETTING BIG COVERAGE FROM THE MEDIA
YOU LIED TO ME?! CHIEF KAMANE?
HAHA, THIS KID IS REALLY SCARED!?
MY NAME IS TENNOUJI TOME, AND I'M 19 YEARS OLD. I AM A DESIGNER WHO DREAMS OF MAKING FASHION CLOTHES
Should we really go?
EVEN IF THERE IS A CURSE, WE'D BETTER HEAD OVER THERE ANYWAY, RIGHT?
SOMEDAY I WILL HAVE MY OWN COLLECTION LIKE HERS. ON DAYS LIKE THIS, JUST THINKING ABOUT IT FILLS MY HEART WITH EXCITEMENT AND JOY.
THOUGH I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME HARD STUDYING BEFORE I CAN BECOME A WORLD-RENOWNED DESIGNER LIKE MS. OKUMURA NAOMI...


WHAT!?
NO... LOOK OUT THE WINDOW...
WHAT? YOU'RE ALWAYS SCARED, AREN'T YOU, TOME?
CHIEF, THAT'S PRETTY SCARY...
HOW-EVER...
flop
TA... TAMARA !?

munch
GULP
munch
YOU SERIOUSLY HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING IN THREE DAYS?
WHY ARE YOU LIVING LIKE A VAGRANT IN JAPAN?
BUT DIDN'T YOU GO TO PARIS TO APPEAR IN THE COLLECTION?
A CASINO? WHY WOULD YOU...?
REALLY!?
WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE I LOST ALL OF MY POSSESSIONS AT A CASINO...
ISN'T IT EVERYONE'S DREAM TO BET EVERYTHING ON THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME?!
BECAUSE I WAS LET INTO THE PARIS COLLECTION! I WENT EVERYDAY HARDLY EATING ANYTHING, AND I WAS PRACTICALLY FORCED TO GO TO THE GYM! IT WAS HORRIBLE!


I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING AT DREAMS THE WRONG WAY
EX EXCUSE ME
YOU'VE ALREADY HAD THREE BOXES OF GYUDON YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE I'VE SEEN BEFORE, THOUGH—
A BIG HIT AMONG ASIA'S SUPER-MODELS LAST YEAR
YOU MUST BE TAMARA ASABUKI, RIGHT?
TAMARA ASABUKI
OUI
You're still hungry?!
More
.....


PLEASE GO HOME!
WHAT? CAN'T I AT LEAST STAY HERE ONE NIGHT?
NO! PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR OWN HOME!
I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO, SO LET ME STAY
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO STAY SOMEWHERE ELSE!?
IT SHOULDN'T MATTER IF I TURN YOU OUT. JAPAN'S PRECIOUS TAMARA MUST HAVE A BOYFRIEND AND A BUNCH OF FRIENDS TO STAY WITH, RIGHT?
WHAT?
COULD IT BE THAT...
NOBODY LIKES YOU?

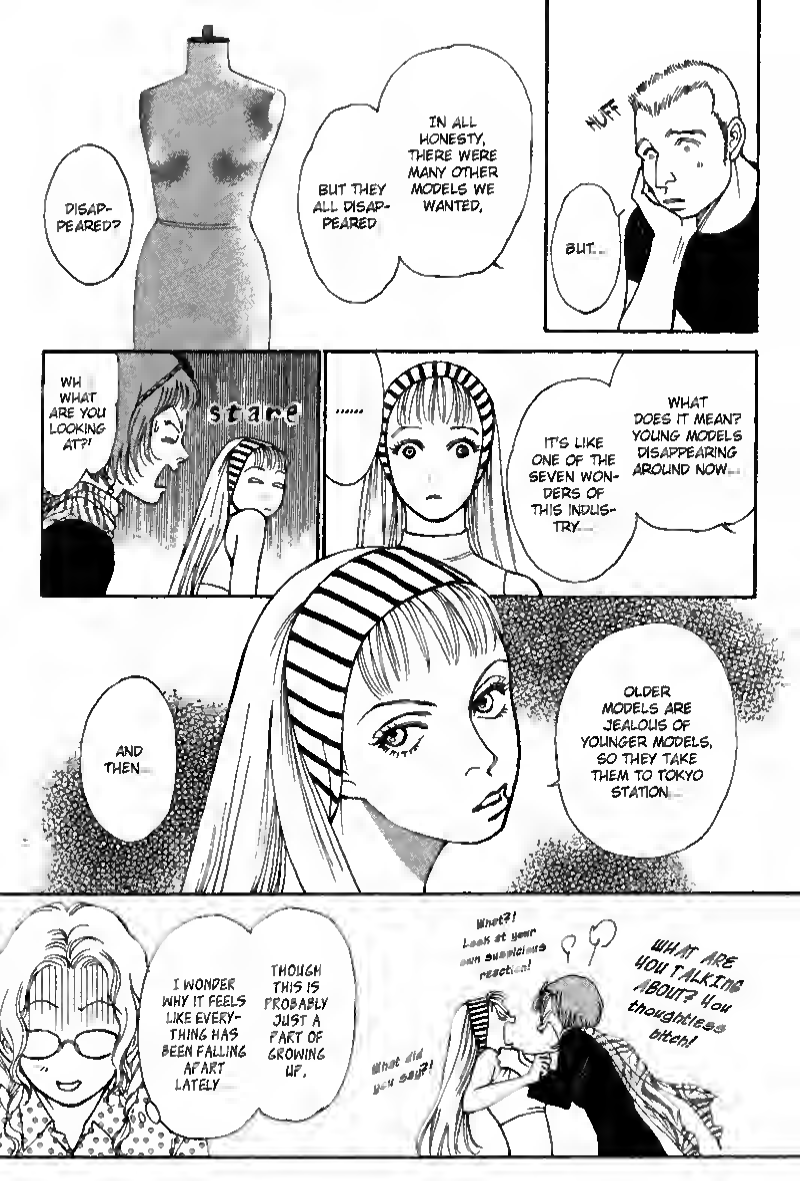
CLATTER
PO-PO-LICE
SLAM
fwip
SWIPE
GRAB
!
DO YOU HAVE ANY BEER IN THIS PLACE?
isn't this grime...
.....

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
SHE GETS DRUNK EVERY NIGHT AND DOESN'T SHUT UP, DOESN'T CLEAN UP AFTER HERSELF, AND HER ROOM IS A MESS! THIS IS ENOUGH ALREADY!
CHIEF, HURRY UP AND TELL HER TO LEAVE, PLEASE!
NOW NOW, TOME, DON'T SAY THAT.
CAN'T YOU TAKE PITY ON HER, SINCE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLACE ELSE TO GO?
SO WHY DON'T YOU LET HER STAY WITH YOU, THEN!?
THAT WON'T WORK. I CAN'T HAVE A FEMALE ROOM-MATE.
PLEASE HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE. I KNOW THAT'S HOW SHE IS, BUT I THINK SHE'S ACTUALLY LONELY INSIDE.

AH!
rub
rub
ISN'T THAT YOUR OWN FAULT?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M ALONE, I LOST ALL MY MONEY AND MY HOME...
I BET SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD LIVE A FEW MONTHS ON THE STREET—
BUT REALLY, WOULDN'T YOU BE FINE?
YOU REALLY ARE HEARTLESS, AREN'T YOU? YOU WOULDN'T CARE IF I WERE LEFT ALL ALONE?!
WH— WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
BEING WILD AS USUAL, TAMARA?
hmp?!
EEK!

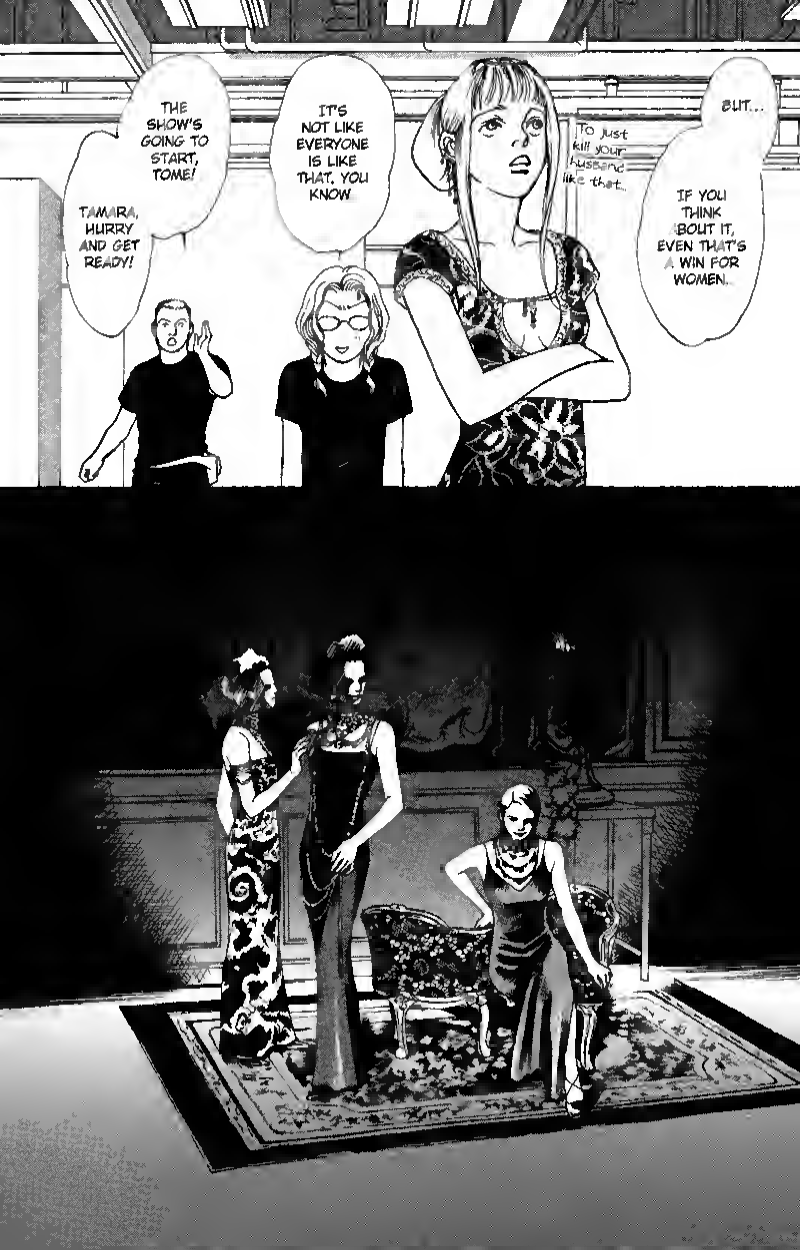
KAREN!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE? SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE GONE TO PARIS?
OR MAYBE YOU RE-TIRED?
I'M STILL DOING COMMIS-SIONS!
Recently appeared in the Paris collection
Once appeared in the Paris collection
ON THAT NOTE, REGARDING MS. NAOMI'S COLLEC-TION
THEY'VE DECIDED THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO WEAR THAT NECKLACE

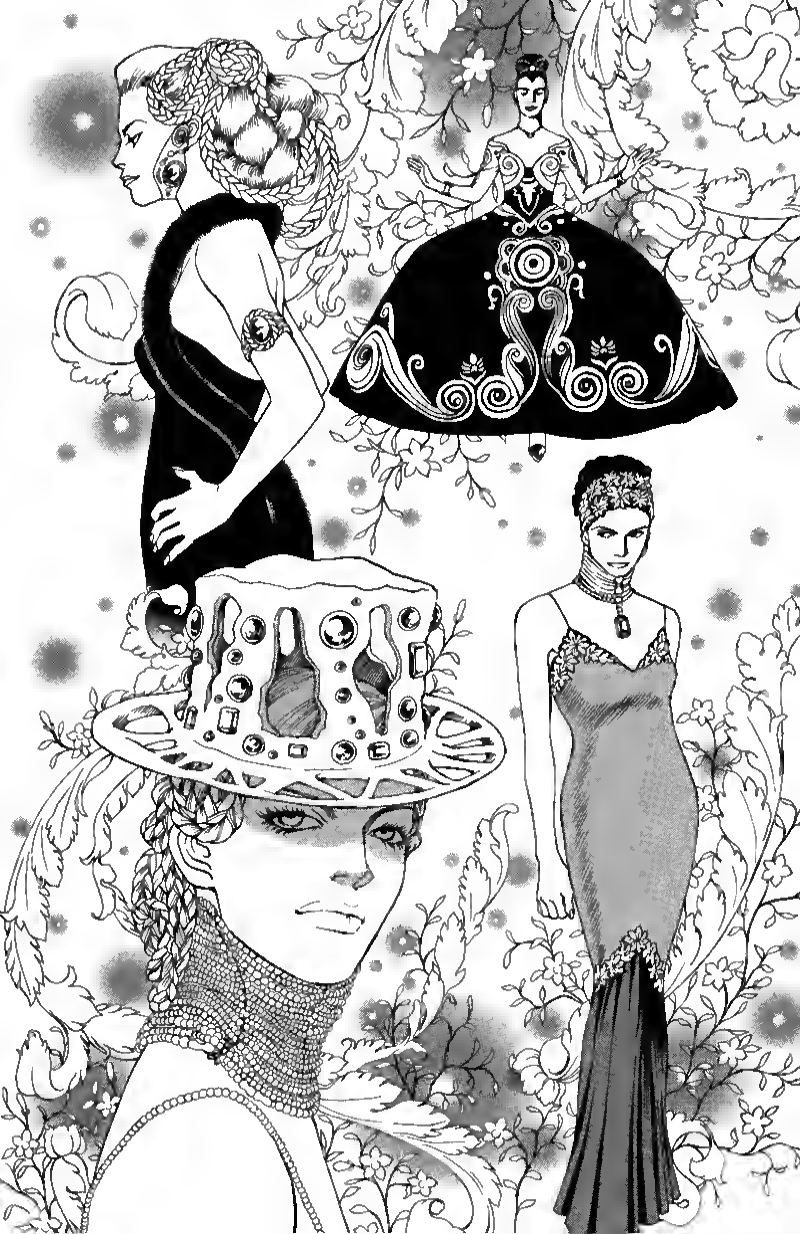
THERE'S BEEN SOME FUSS FINDING SUPERMODELS, SO EVEN NAOMI OKUMURA AGREED TO SHOWCASE THE COLLECTION.
IF IT'S OFF THE SHELF IT WOULDN'T MATTER, BUT THEY NEED MORE DIGNIFIED MODELS FOR THE HAUTE COUTRE
NOBODY HELPED ME!
DID YOU HELP HER?
Nice one Karen!
!
HEY NOW, BOTH OF YOU!
IT'S HOW YOU BEHAVE ONCE YOU'RE ON STAGE!
Retard!
Lady!
DIGNIFIED? WHAT DOES DIGNITY HAVE TO DO WITH BEING ON STAGE?
GAH!
!!MFH!!
SO YOU SHOULD BOTH GO TO MS NAOMI'S SHOW TO REPRESENT JAPAN!
TAMARA AND KAREN ARE BOTH REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN.


DISAP-PEARED?
BUT THEY ALL DISAP-PEARED
IN ALL HONESTY, THERE WERE MANY OTHER MODELS WE WANTED,
HUFF
BUT...
WH WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
stare
.....
IT'S LIKE ONE OF THE SEVEN WON-DERS OF THIS INDUS-TRY...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? YOUNG MODELS DISAPPEARING AROUND NOW...
AND THEN...
OLDER MODELS ARE JEALOUS OF YOUNGER MODELS, SO THEY TAKE THEM TO TOKYO STATION...
I WONDER WHY IT FEELS LIKE EVERY-THING HAS BEEN FALLING AFART LATELY...
THOUGH THIS IS PROBABLY JUST A PART OF GROWING UP,
What did you say?!
What?! Look at your own suspicious reaction!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? You thoughtless bitch!

THE CELEBRITY OF CELEBRITIES. THE OWNER OF THE NECKLACE, MRS. TESHIGAWARA.
WOW! CELEBRITIES FROM ALL OVER ARE GATHERED HERE!
[illegible] NIFICENT!
TOME, LOOK OVER THERE.
WOW, SHE'S REALLY PRETTY
ISN'T SHE? SHE USED TO BE A MODEL, BUT STOPPED AFTER SHE GOT MARRIED
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK SHE IS?
?
IN HER THIRTIES, I'D SAY...

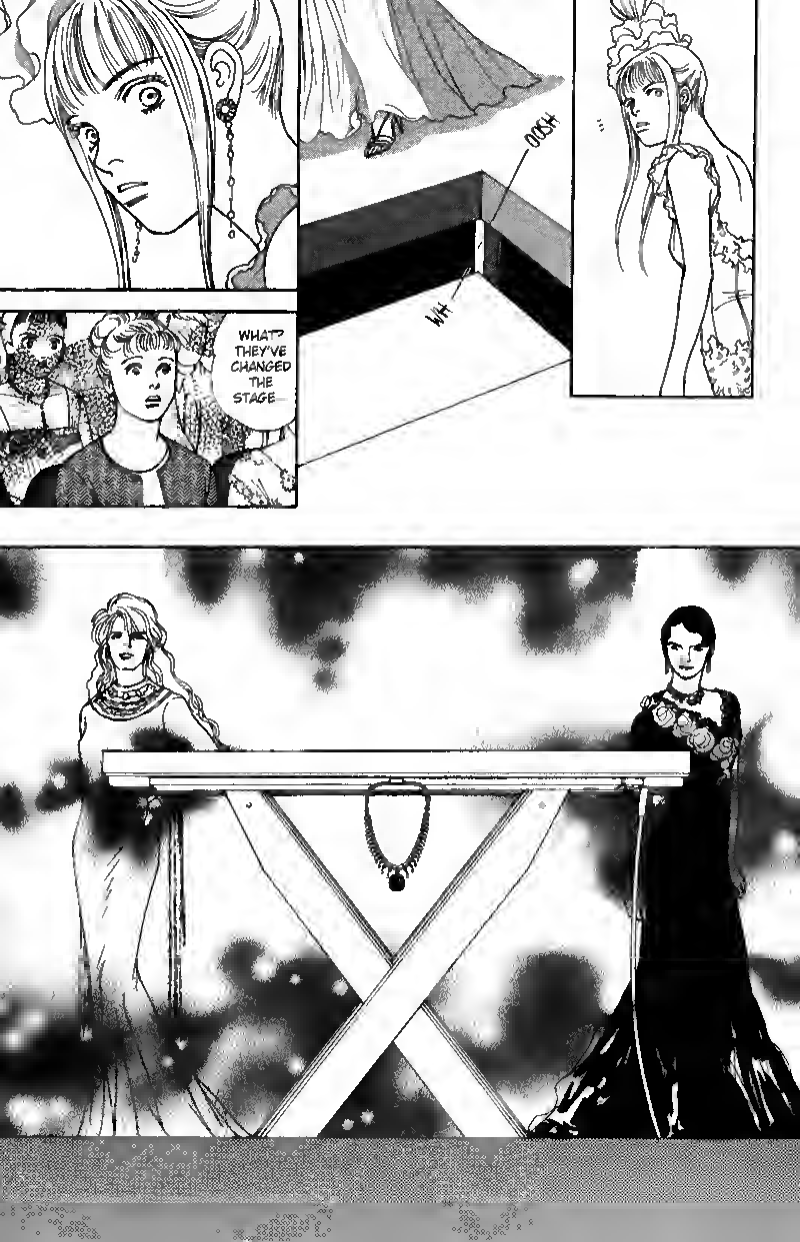
SHE'LL BE FIFTY SOON.
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
I AM! HER YOUTH IS STILL A MYSTERY IN OUR INDUSTRY BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW HER SECRET,
IT'S THAT SHE'S BEEN ABLE TO RELAX BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS INHERITANCE SHE RECEIVED AFTER HER HUSBAND'S DEATH TEN YEARS AGO. IT'S ALLOWED HER TO SPEND MONEY LIKE WATER
How wonderful
Sigh
IN THIS WORLD THERE SEEM TO BE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEAUTIFUL, RICH, AND ABLE TO GET WHATEVER THEY WANT.
IT'S TOO BAD SHE LOST HER LOVE.
STUPID!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS LOVE.
HER HUSBAND WAS THIRTY YEARS OLDER THAN HER.
She did it for his fortune

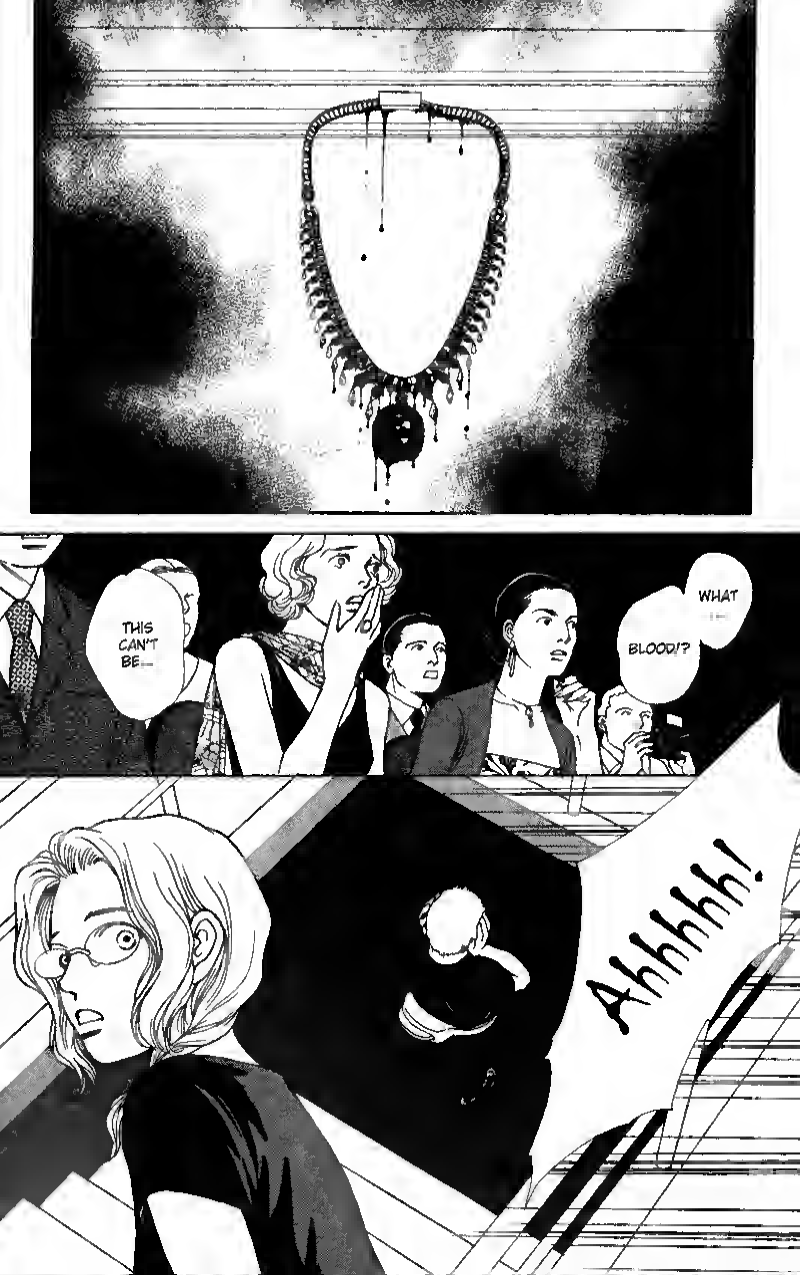

TAMARA, HURRY AND GET READY!
THE SHOW'S GOING TO START, TOME!
IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW.
To just kill your husband like that...
BUT...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EVEN THAT'S A WIN FOR WOMEN.



YOU'RE UP, TAMARA!
HURRY AND CHANGE, THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME BEFORE YOUR TURN!

SHE'S SO PRETTY!
SHE ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A FAIRY...
hmph. if they really knew her they wouldn't say that
HAS ANYONE SEEN KAREN?
WHAT HAPPENED? SHE'S NOT AROUND?
IT'S ALMOST HER TURN TO GO OUT ON STAGE. BUT SHE'S NOT ANYWHERE TO BE FOUND!
!

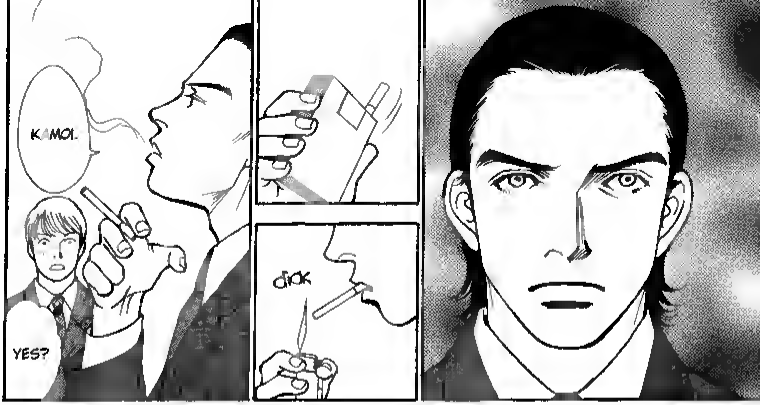

WHAT? THEY'VE CHANGED THE STAGE...
HSSH
HM


THIS CAN'T BE—
WHAT—
BLOOD!?
Ahhhh!

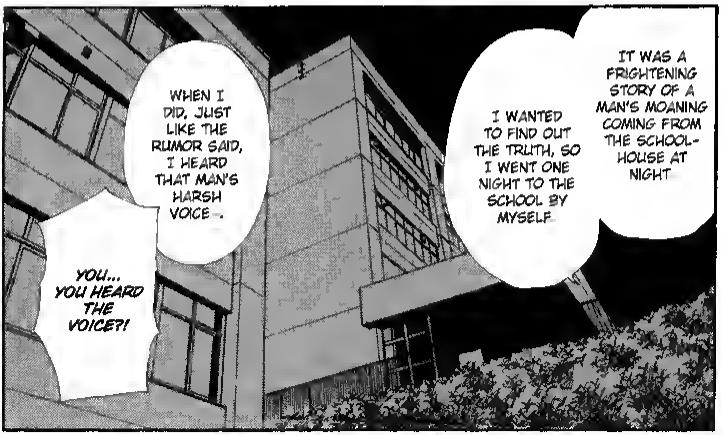
WHAT HAPPENED, KAMANE?!

I SEE
HER NECKLACE WAS CAUGHT IN THE GEARS OF THE LIFT WHILE IT WAS DOWN HERE. WHEN THE LIFT STARTED TO RISE FROM THE FLOOR, HER NECK WAS CAUGHT...
.....
ugh
NO... DETECTIVE JINNO, YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO DRAW IT OUT.
VISUALLY. SOMETHING LIKE THIS
IF YOU LOOK AT IT, IT SEEMS TOO HORRIBLE TO BE AN ACCIDENT—
WHY WOULD THE VICTIM HAVE BEEN DOWN HERE ANYWAY?
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE VICTIM WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE HER ENTRANCE ON STAGE BY RIDING THE LIFT AT THE END OF THE SHOW. SO SHE WAS PROBABLY WAITING DOWN HERE THE ENTIRE TIME...

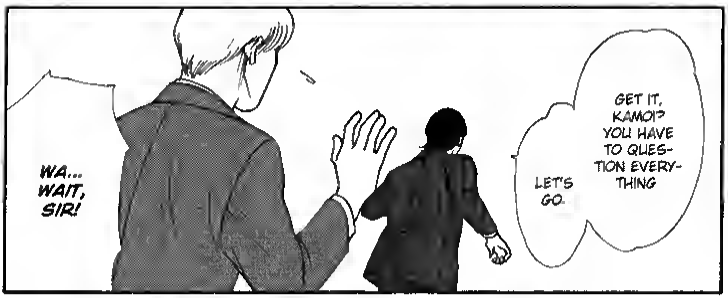
THE REAL MYSTERY IS THAT EVEN THOUGH THE LIFT OPERATORS WEREN'T AROUND, IT MOVED AS IF THEY WERE.
ASIDE FROM THE VICTIM, DID ANYONE ELSE COME DOWN HERE?
EVERYONE WAS SO BUSY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOW THAT IT SEEMS NO ONE REALLY REMEMBERS
WHILE SHE WAS WAITING TO APPEAR ON STAGE, HER NECKLACE GOT CAUGHT IN THE LIFT. THEN WHILE SHE WAS TRYING TO UNTANGLE IT, SHE ACCIDENTALLY HIT THE SWITCH—
I DON'T BUY IT. THERE ARE TOO MANY VARIABLES FOR IT TO BE AN ACCIDENT
WELL, JINNO, THIS IS JUST SOMETHING I HEARD, BUT...
DO YOU THINK THIS INCIDENT COULD BE BECAUSE OF THE CURSE?
CURSE?
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE NECKLACE THE VICTIM WAS WEARING IS CURSED

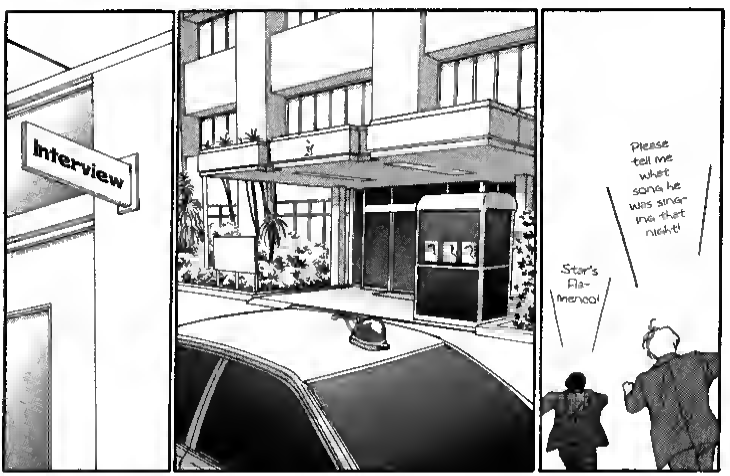

K-KMOI.
YES?
click

THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT SPREAD AROUND WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL


IT WAS A FRIGHTENING STORY OF A MAN'S MOANING COMING FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE AT NIGHT
I WANTED TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH, SO I WENT ONE NIGHT TO THE SCHOOL BY MYSELF
WHEN I DID, JUST LIKE THE RUMOR SAID, I HEARD THAT MAN'S HARSH VOICE—.
YOU... YOU HEARD THE VOICE?!

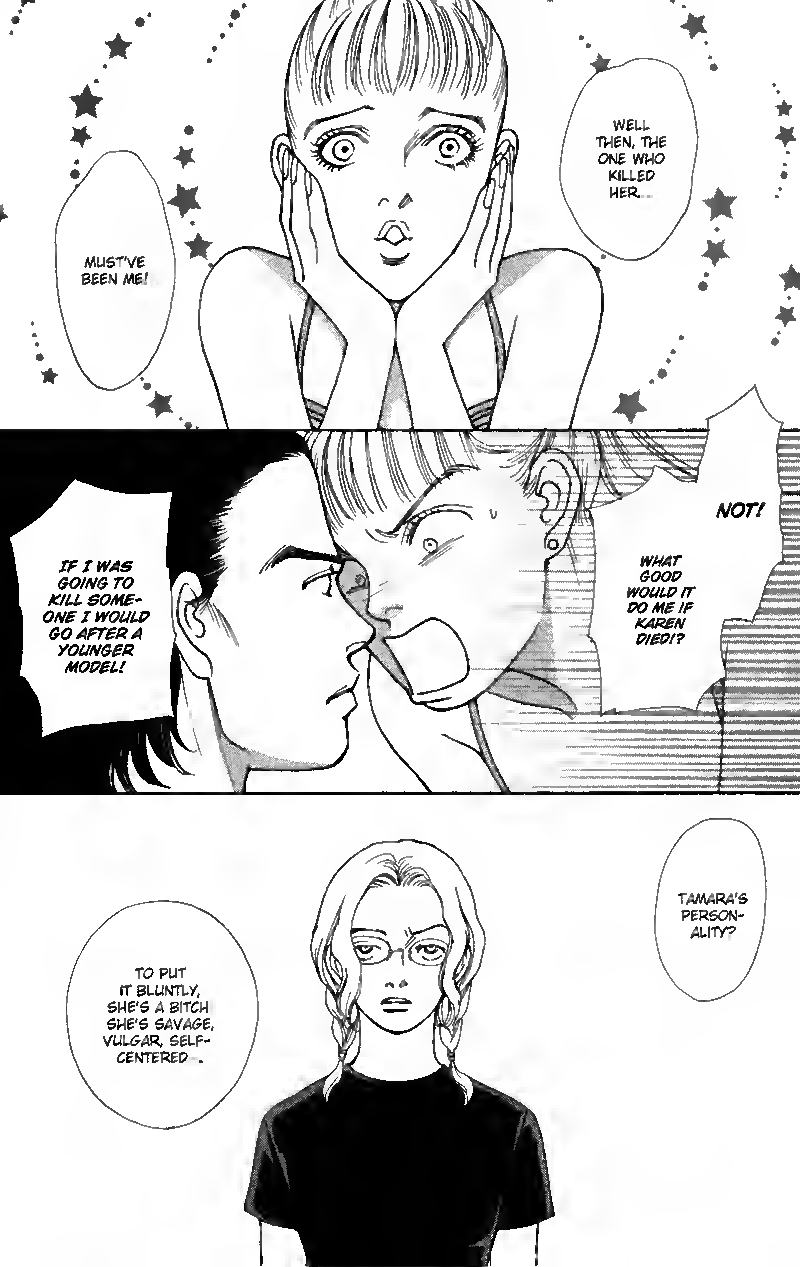
.....
YES IT WAS THE NIGHTLY CARETAKER PRACTICING HIS HORRIBLE KARAOKE


WA... WAIT, SIR!
LET'S GO.
GET IT, KAMOI? YOU HAVE TO QUES-TION EVERY-THING


Interview
Please tell me what song he was singing that night!
Star's Ra-men-oo!

YES TAMARA ASABUKI, 19.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY'D BEEN FIGHTING AT THE DROP OF A PIN FOR QUITE SOME TIME
THAT SEEMS LIKE AN AMPLE MOTIVE
HER? SHE'S THE ONE WHO WAS GETTING INTO ARGUMENTS WITH THE VICTIM BEFORE SHE DIED?
I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT TRENDS.
OH... NO, THAT'S BANNA'S NEW SUMMER LINE
IS THAT LINGERIE?
ANYWAY, WHAT'S WITH THOSE CLOTHES?
THAT WAS AN OLD COMEDIAN
Really old
I KNOW A LEONARDO KLIMA, BUT ..
LEONARDO BANNA, HE'S A VERY POPULAR DESIGNER RIGHT NOW. YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM?
BANNA
PANDA?

I WAS ON STAGE AROUND THEN!
HOW WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO KILL HER?!
Don't put it like that
WHY'RE YOU SAYING I'M THE ONE WHO WHACKED OFF KAREN'S HEAD!?
WELL, THE LIFT THAT KILLED KAREN TAKES ABOUT FIFTEEN SECONDS TO APPEAR ON STAGE.
YOU HOOKED HER NECKLACE TO THE GEARS WITHOUT HER NOTICING, AND PUSHED THE BUTTON TO ACTIVATE THE LIFT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE YOU APPEARED ON STAGE
THE TRIP TO THE STAGE WOULD HAVE TAKEN JUST ABOUT THAT LONG.
YOU CERTAINLY COULD HAVE KILLED HER


MUST'VE BEEN ME!
WELL THEN, THE ONE WHO KILLED HER...
IF I WAS GOING TO KILL SOMEONE I WOULD GO AFTER A YOUNGER MODEL!
NOT!
WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO ME IF KAREN DIED!?
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, SHE'S A BITCH SHE'S SAVAGE, VULGAR, SELF-CENTERED...
TAMARA'S PERSONALITY?

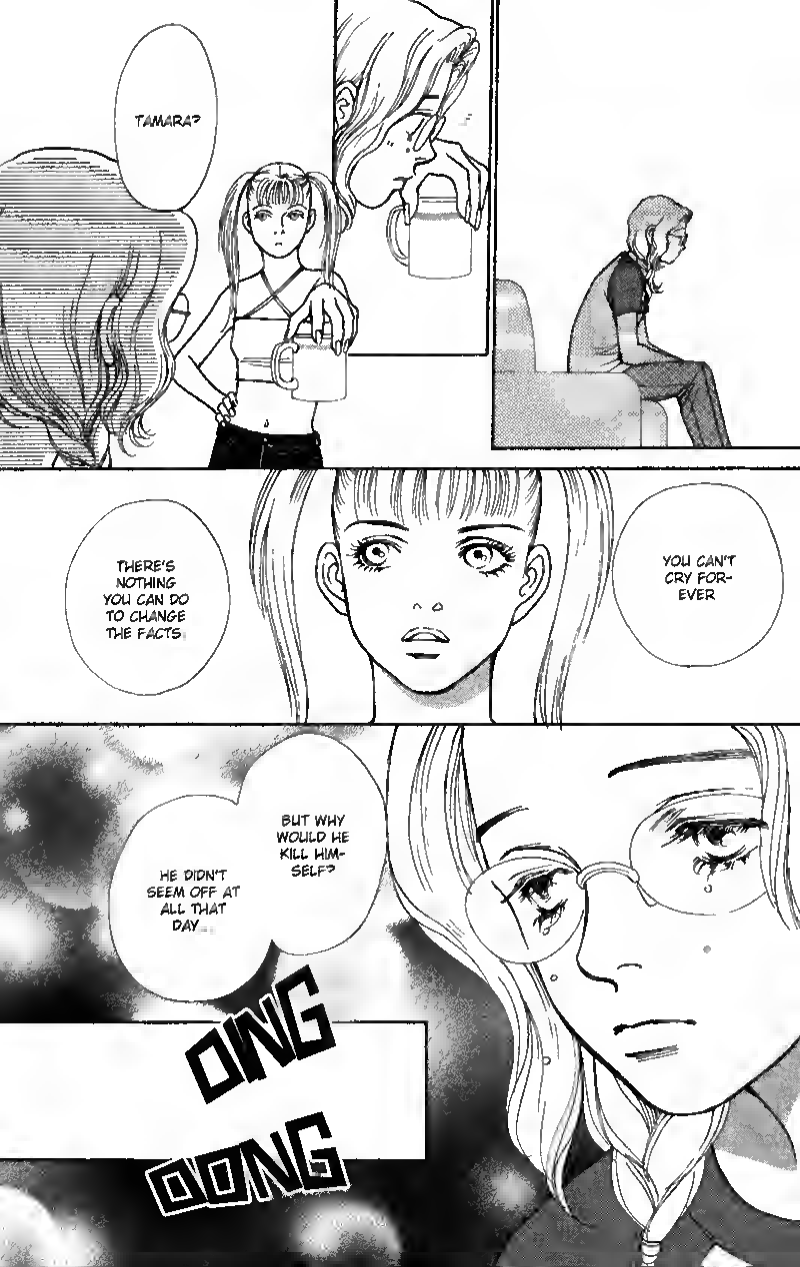
SIR, I BOUGHT SOME BREAD!
IT'S GETTING PRETTY DARK, ISN'T IT...
YOU MEAN STRESSFUL, KAMOI.
WOW. THIS IS REALLY EXCITING. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SPIED ON SOMEONE AT HOME.
SUCH PRECONCEPTIONS MUST BE AVOIDED DURING AN INVESTIGATION. FORGET ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS
SIR, DO YOU REALLY THINK TAMARA KILLED HER?
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME

.....
OF COURSE ONCE NIGHT HITS IT'S GOING TO BE A PAJAMA PARTY, HUH?
I WONDER. IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME ALL NIGHT
AH, TOME
CHIEF KAMANE, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
!!

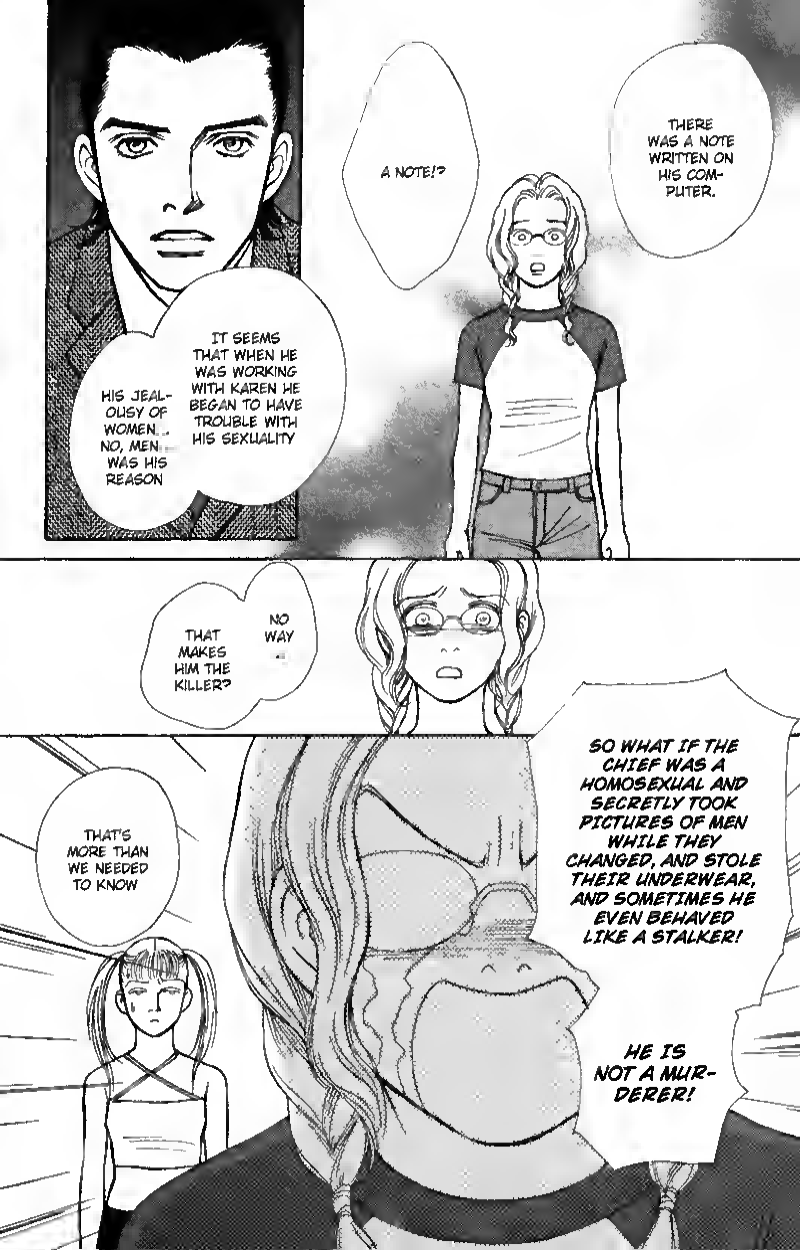
AH,
THAT'S MRS TESHI-GAWARA.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS A PICTURE FROM WHEN SHE WAS A MODEL.
A LONG TIME AGO I USED TO ENVY HER, YOU KNOW.
KAREN ALSO ENVIED HER, AND THAT ENVY DROVE HER TO BECOME A MODEL
BUT FOR IT TO HAVE ENDED LIKE THAT...
IT'S SO HORRIBLE.
TOME, TAKE THIS
.. CHIEF?

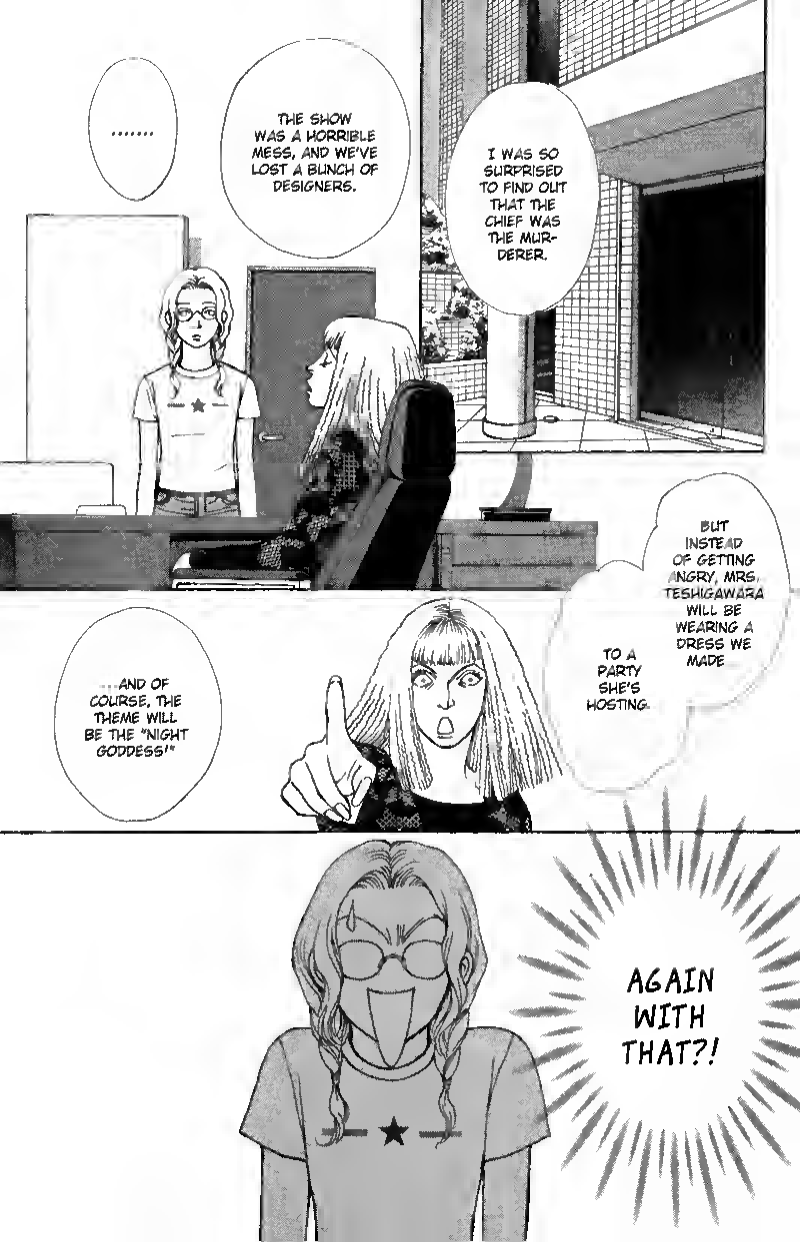
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME, THEN...
WHAT?
SORRY, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO HANG ONTO IT FOR A BIT.
A SEQUIN?
IT'S NOTHING!
OH NO, IT'S OKAY!
I MADE IT.
THE DRESS THAT MRS. TESHIGAWARA WAS WEARING AT THE SHOW THAT NIGHT...

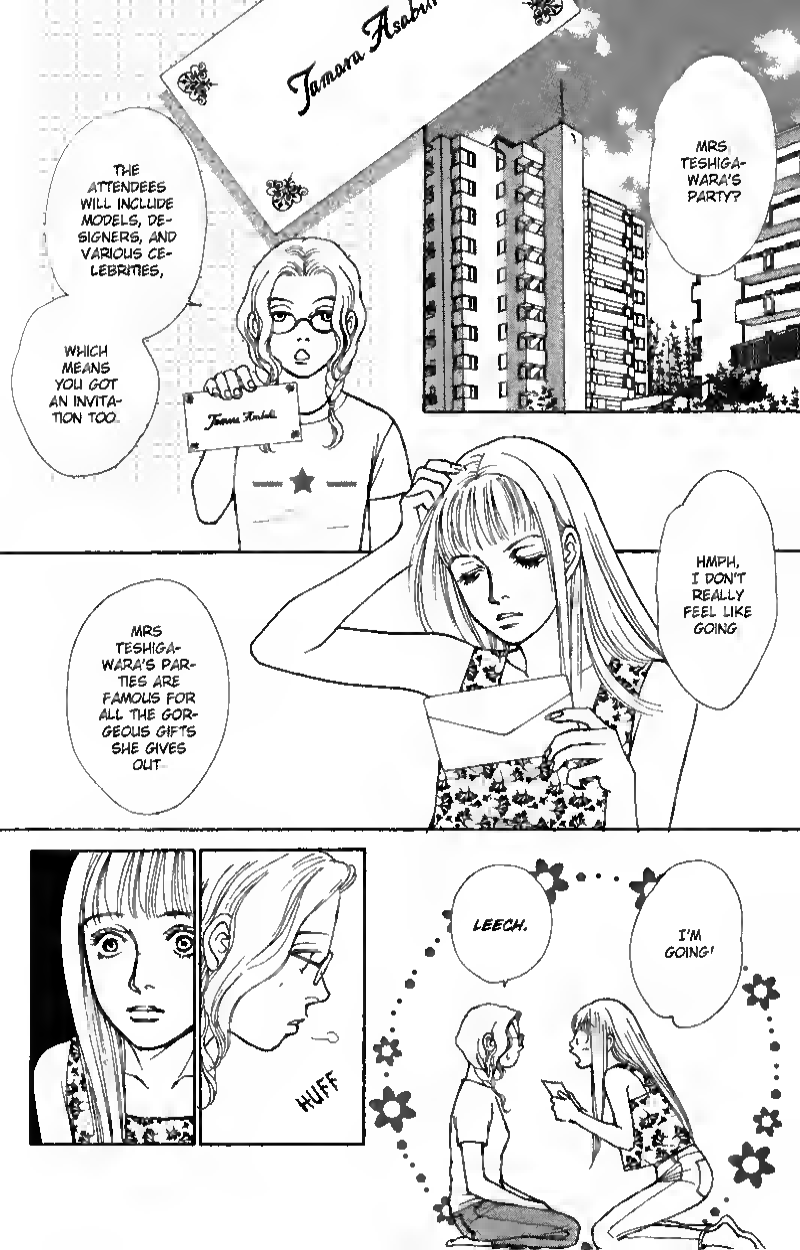
WELL THEN...
.....
ONE STITCH AT A TIME, I MADE IT FOR MRS TESHIGAWARA.
AND ALSO, THE DRESS FOR THE NECKLACE THAT KAREN DIED IN.
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW KAMANE.
THE NEXT DAY I DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD JUMPED FROM THE TERRACE OF HIS OWN APARTMENT.


TAMARA?
YOU CAN'T CRY FOR-EVER
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THE FACTS
HE DIDN'T SEEM OFF AT ALL THAT DAY...
BUT WHY WOULD HE KILL HIM-SELF?
DING
DONG

WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE LATE MR KAMANE,
IF THAT'S ALRIGHT?
HE DIDN'T KILL KAREN!
HOW COULD YOU!
WHOA, CALM DOWN.
WHAT GROUNDS DO YOU HAVE FOR ACCUSING HIM!?

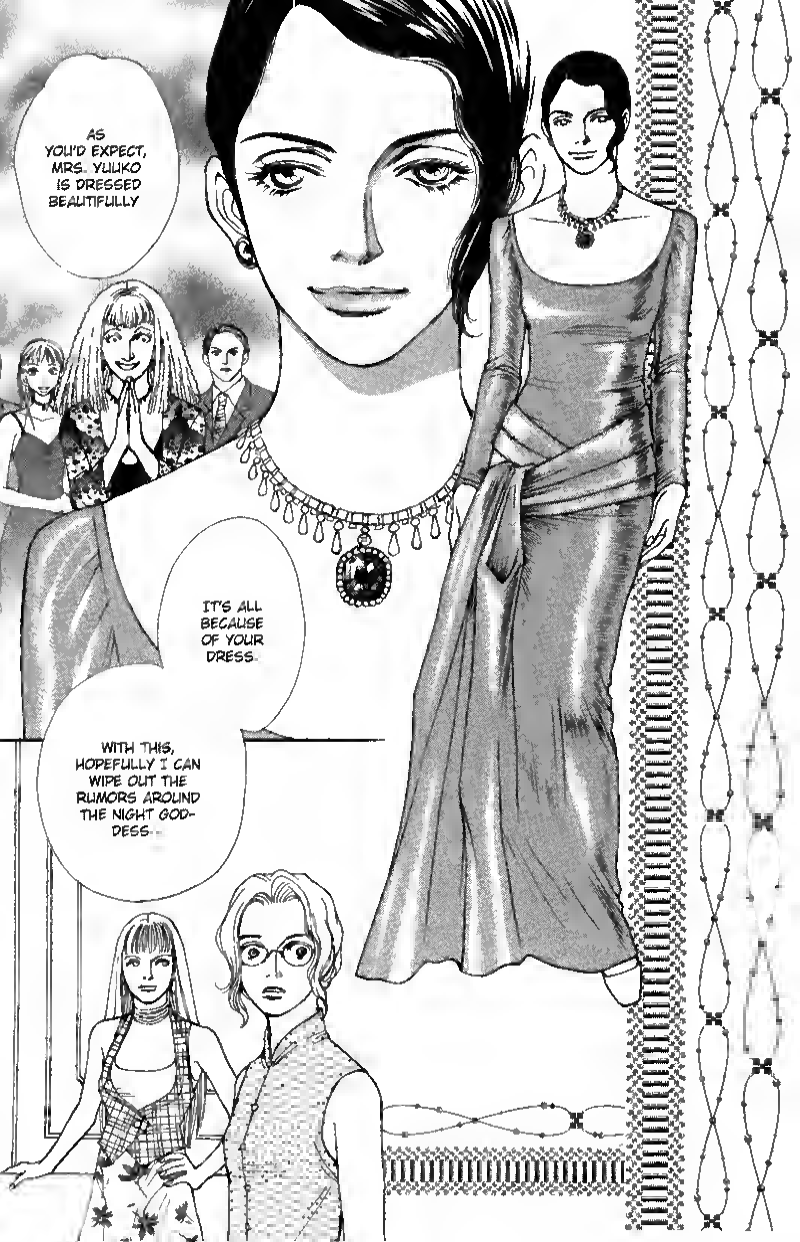

THERE WAS A NOTE WRITTEN ON HIS COMPUTER.
A NOTE!?
IT SEEMS THAT WHEN HE WAS WORKING WITH KAREN HE BEGAN TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH HIS SEXUALITY
HIS JEALOUSY OF WOMEN... NO, MEN... WAS HIS REASON
NO WAY
THAT MAKES HIM THE KILLER?
SO WHAT IF THE CHIEF WAS A HOMOSEXUAL AND SECRETLY TOOK PICTURES OF MEN WHILE THEY CHANGED, AND STOLE THEIR UNDERWEAR, AND SOMETIMES HE EVEN BEHAVED LIKE A STALKER!
THAT'S MORE THAN WE NEEDED TO KNOW
HE IS NOT A MURDERER!

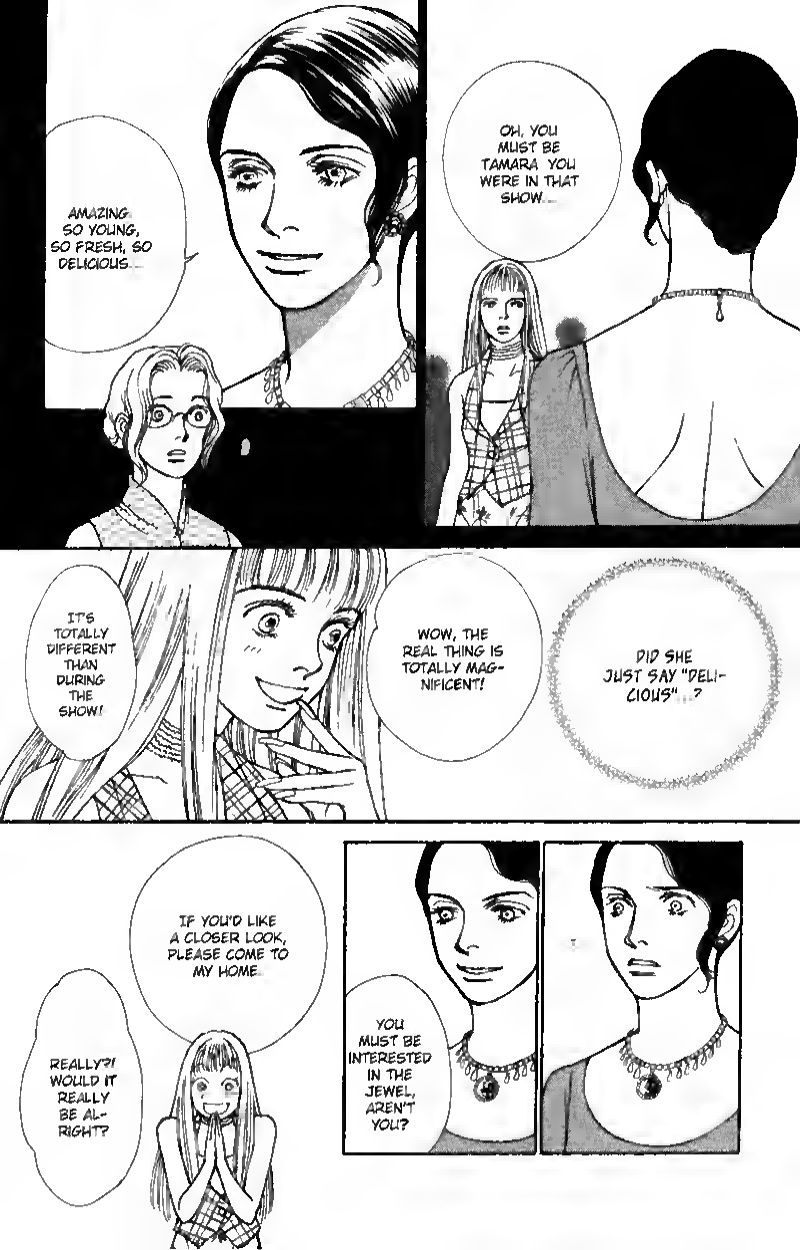

.....
THE SHOW WAS A HORRIBLE MESS, AND WE'VE LOST A BUNCH OF DESIGNERS.
I WAS SO SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT THE CHIEF WAS THE MURDERER.
BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING ANGRY, MRS. TESHIGAWARA WILL BE WEARING A DRESS WE MADE TO A PARTY SHE'S HOSTING.
...AND OF COURSE, THE THEME WILL BE THE "NIGHT GODDESS!"
AGAIN WITH THAT?!


Tamara Asabuki
MRS. TESHIGAWARA'S PARTY?
THE ATTENDEES WILL INCLUDE MODELS, DESIGNERS, AND VARIOUS CELEBRITIES,
WHICH MEANS YOU GOT AN INVITATION TOO.
Tamara Asabuki
HMPH, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING
MRS. TESHIGAWARA'S PARTIES ARE FAMOUS FOR ALL THE GORGEOUS GIFTS SHE GIVES OUT.
HUFF
LEECH.
I'M GOING!

WHY THE SIGH?
I JUST DON'T GET IT, WHAT HAP-PENED...
YOU'RE STILL UPSET? BUT THEY FOUND THE CHIEF'S NOTE, REMEMBER?
BUT SOMEONE ELSE COULD HAVE PLANTED IT ON THE COMPUTER. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I CAN'T BE-LIEVE HE WOULD EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I THINK SOMEONE ELSE DID IT.
THEN WHO COULD YOU SAY IS THE REAL MUR-DERER?
DO YOU REALLY STILL SUS-PECT ME?
A LITTLE...

NO, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE JUST PLAYING AROUND.
This is great! Two women together like that
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?!

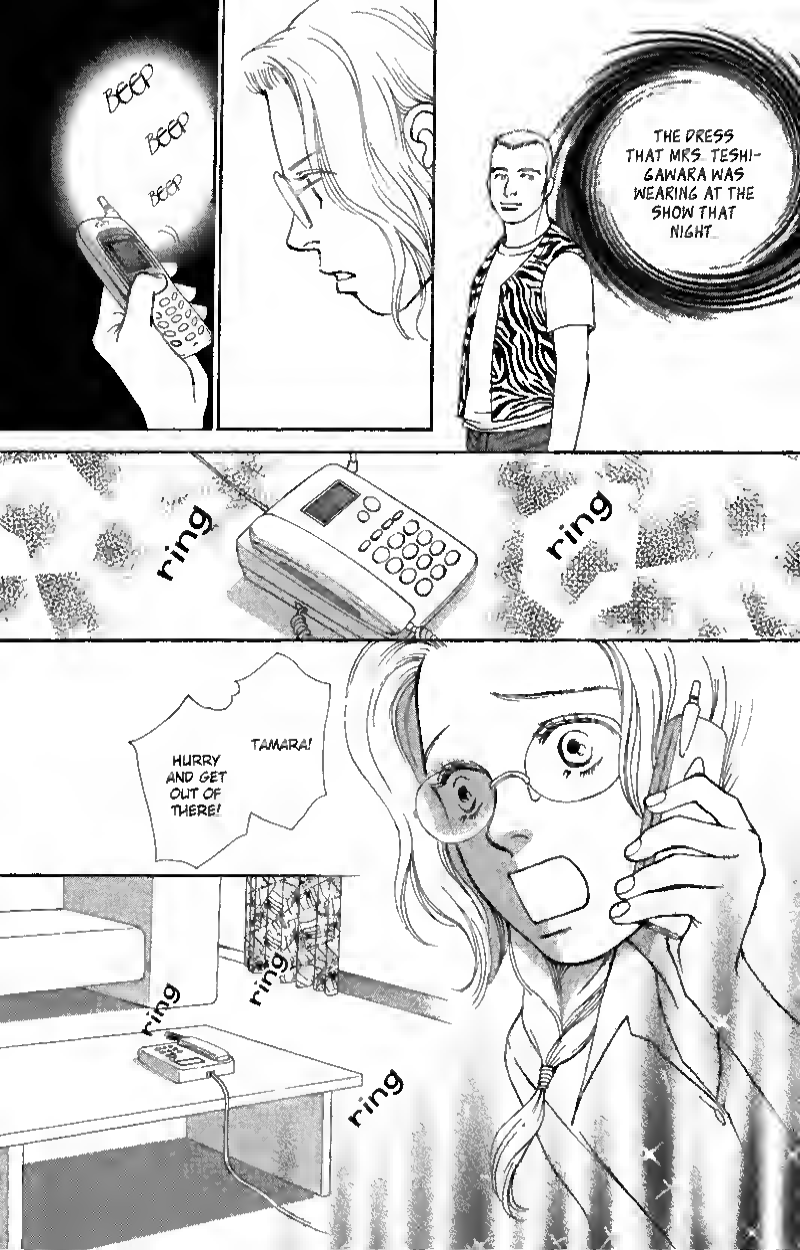

AS YOU'D EXPECT, MRS. YUUKO IS DRESSED BEAUTIFULLY
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR DRESS.
WITH THIS, HOPEFULLY I CAN WIPE OUT THE RUMORS AROUND THE NIGHT GODDESS.


AMAZING... SO YOUNG, SO FRESH, SO DELICIOUS...
OH, YOU MUST BE TAMARA YOU WERE IN THAT SHOW...
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN DURING THE SHOW!
WOW, THE REAL THING IS TOTALLY MAGNIFICENT!
DID SHE JUST SAY "DELICIOUS"...?
IF YOU'D LIKE A CLOSER LOOK, PLEASE COME TO MY HOME...
REALLY?! WOULD IT REALLY BE ALRIGHT?
YOU MUST BE INTERESTED IN THE JEWEL, AREN'T YOU?

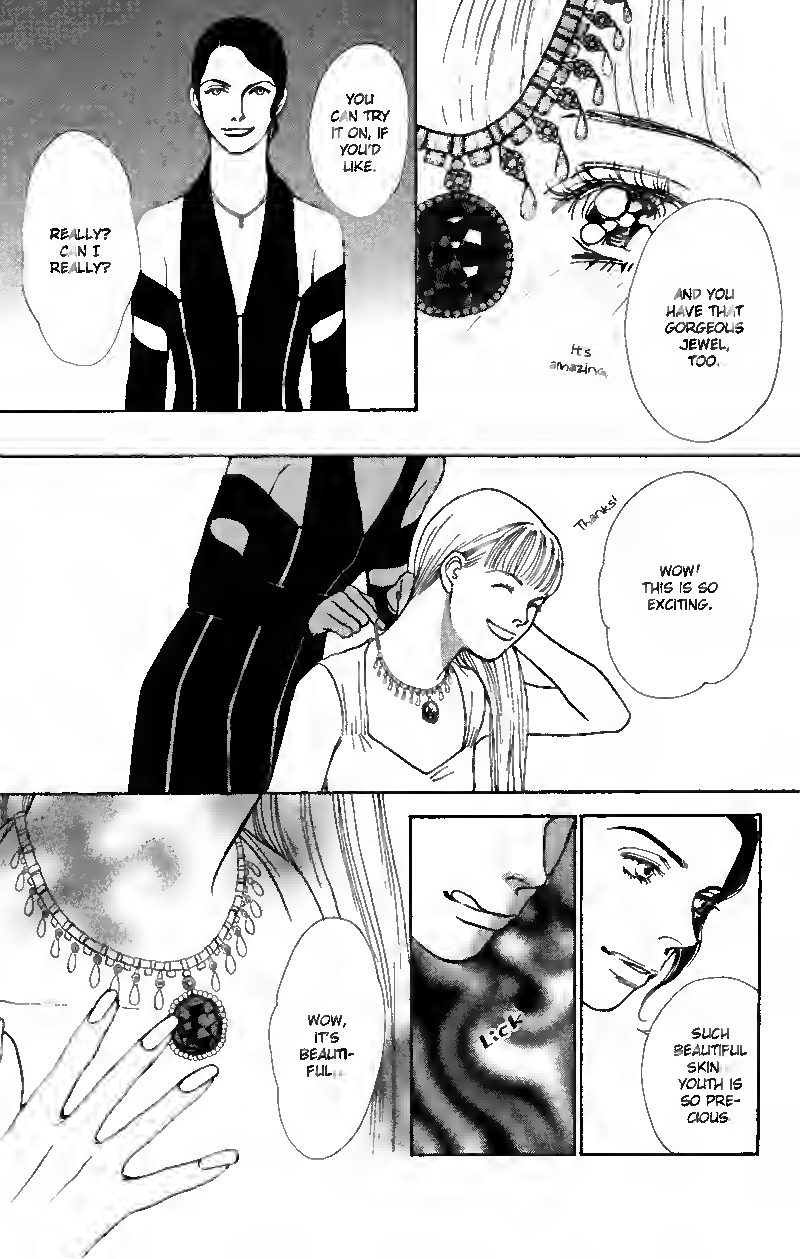
THIS WEEK-END WOULD BE FINE, IF YOU'D LIKE
YES...
SHE'S REALLY BRAVE...
KAREN'S BLOOD WAS ON THAT NECKLACE
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT NEVER HAP-PENED
DUMMY, THERE WAS NEVER A DROP OF BLOOD ON THE REAL ONE
THE RE..L ONE?
DURING THE SHOW THEY USED A REP-LICA. THE ONE WE JUST SAW WAS THE REAL ONE

THAT CAN'T BE...
WE RECEIVED THE PIECES THAT THE CRAFTSMEN CREATED ACCORDING TO MS NAOMI'S DESIGN!
BUT AN IMITATION IS AN IMITATION.
JEWELS LIKE THAT STICK OUT, AND THEY NEVER FOOL ME
.....
THE "NIGHT GODDESS" FROM THE SHOW WAS A FAKE

WAIT A SECOND.
WHO COULD HAVE SWITCHED OUT THE ORIGINAL?
AND WHEN DID THEY? WHO WOULD? AND WHY ...
WHY WOULD THEY NEED TO MAKE A COPY?
click


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THE DRESS THAT MRS. TESHIGAWARA WAS WEARING AT THE SHOW THAT NIGHT...
ring
ring
TAMARA!
HURRY AND GET OUT OF THERE!
ring
ring
ring

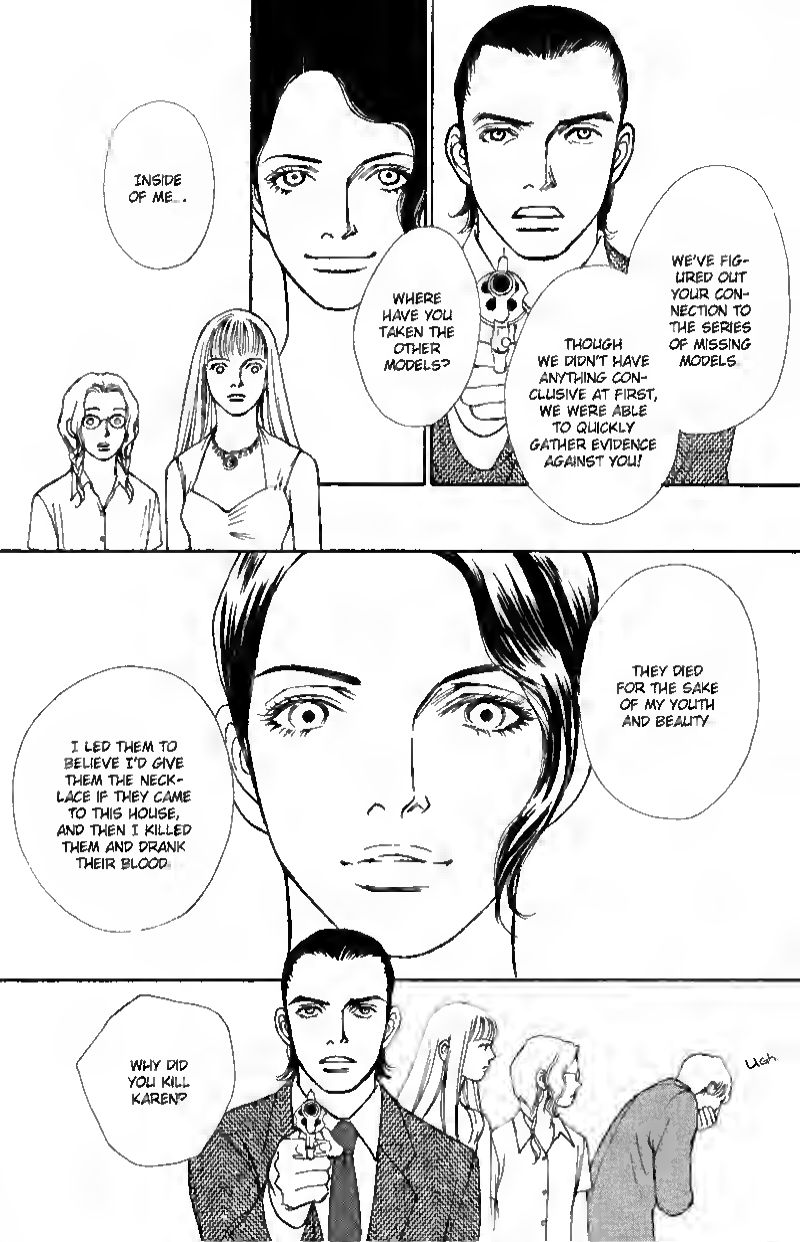
WOW, THIS IS SOME MANSION.
YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A BIG PLACE TO YOURSELF.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE A PLACE LIKE THIS.

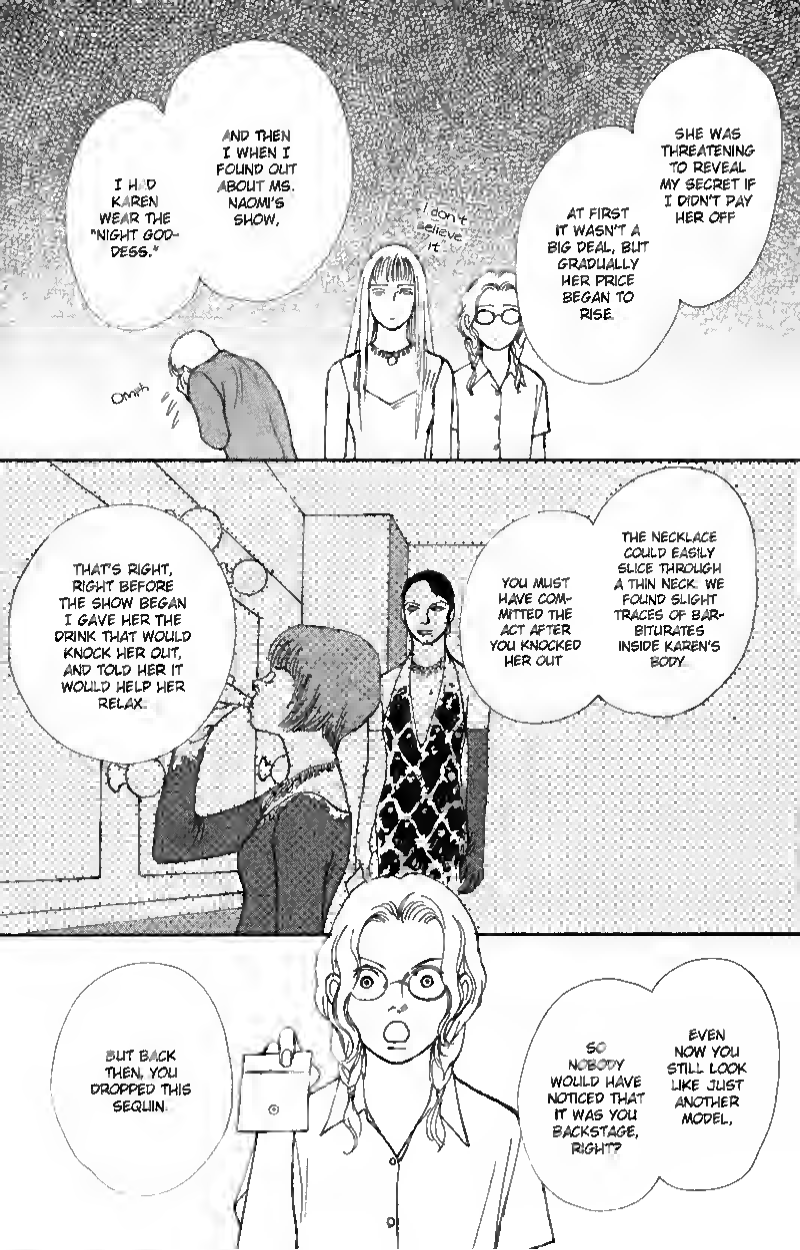

REALLY? CAN I REALLY?
YOU CAN TRY IT ON, IF YOU'D LIKE.
It's amazing
AND YOU HAVE THAT GORGEOUS JEWEL, TOO.
Thanks!
WOW! THIS IS SO EXCITING.
WOW, IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
Lick
SUCH BEAUTIFUL SKIN. YOUTH IS SO PRECIOUS.

GRAB
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, OLD LADY.

DIDN'T YOU DRINK THE TEA I GAVE YOU?!
NOT ONLY DO I HAVE A GOOD EYE I ALSO HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF SMELL
WHY? WOULD YOU DO THIS?
WHY YOU ASK? BECAUSE I CRAVE YOUR YOUTH
ONCE I DRINK YOUR BLOOD, I WILL BE YOUNG AGAIN

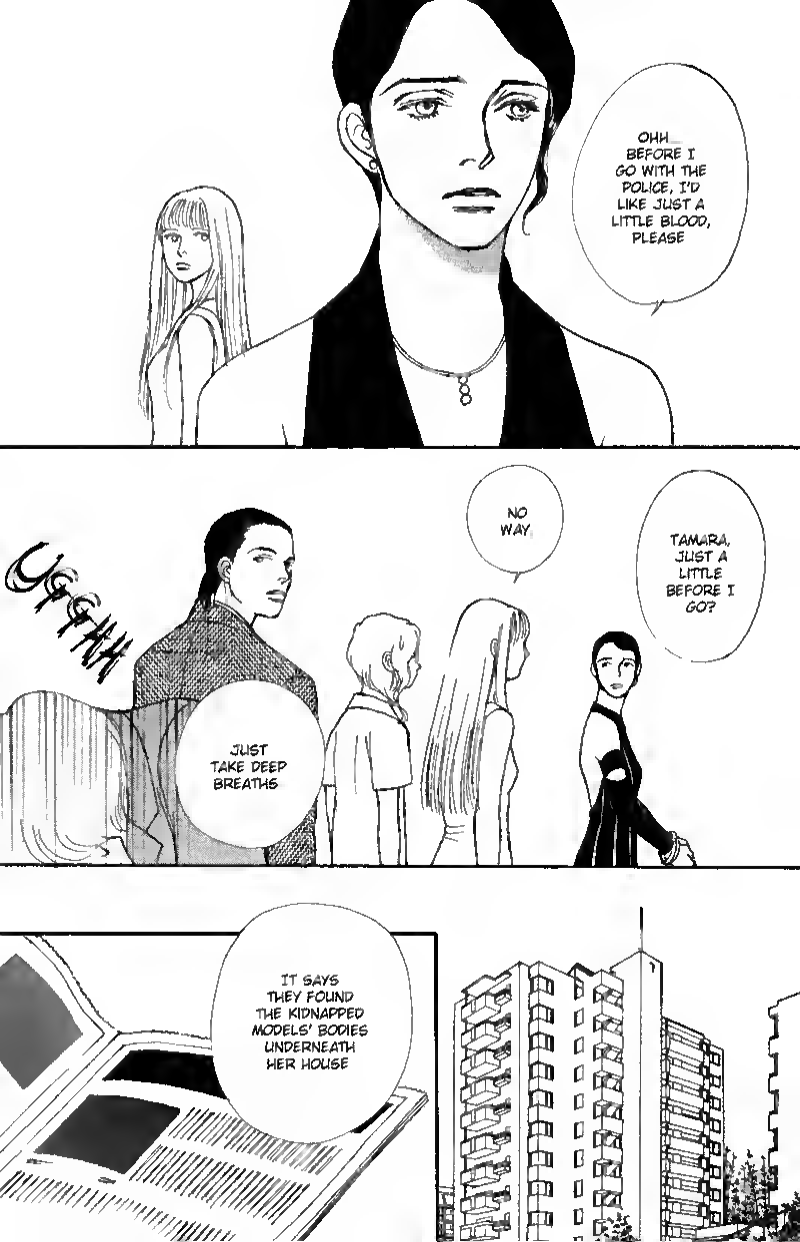
!
YOU'RE COMING WITH US TO THE STATION AS A SUSPECT IN REGARDS TO THE MISSING MODELS!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, TESHIGAWARA YUUKO!
TAMARA!


INSIDE OF ME..
WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN THE OTHER MODELS?
WE'VE FIGURED OUT YOUR CONNECTION TO THE SERIES OF MISSING MODELS.
THOUGH WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING CONCLUSIVE AT FIRST, WE WERE ABLE TO QUICKLY GATHER EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU!
THEY DIED FOR THE SAKE OF MY YOUTH AND BEAUTY
I LED THEM TO BELIEVE I'D GIVE THEM THE NECKLACE IF THEY CAME TO THIS HOUSE, AND THEN I KILLED THEM AND DRANK THEIR BLOOD.
WHY DID YOU KILL KAREN?
Ugh


I had Karen wear the "night goddess."
And then I when I found out about Ms. Naomi's show,
I don't believe it.
Ohhh
At first it wasn't a big deal, but gradually her price began to rise.
She was threatening to reveal my secret if I didn't pay her off
That's right, right before the show began I gave her the drink that would knock her out, and told her it would help her relax.
You must have committed the act after you knocked her out
The necklace could easily slice through a thin neck. We found slight traces of barbiturates inside Karen's body.
But back then, you dropped this sequin.
So nobody would have noticed that it was you backstage, right?
Even now you still look like just another model.

IRONICALLY, THIS SEQUIN BECAME THE CHIEF'S DYING MESSAGE...
SINCE HE'D MADE THE DRESS YOU WERE WEARING THAT NIGHT...
WHEN CHIEF KAMANE FOUND THIS, HE IMMEDIATELY KNEW IT WAS YOURS,
MIND IF I GET SOME FRESH AIR?
BEFORE ANSWERING HIM, I WALKED ONTO THE TERRACE...
HE INVITED ME TO HIS HOUSE AND TRIED TO PERSUADE ME TO TURN MYSELF IN
YU YUUKO !?

MRS. YUUKO!?
I MADE IT LOOK LIKE I'D TAKEN OFF MY SLIPPERS AND JUMPED, AND THEN I PUSHED HIM OFF
AFTER-WARDS I MADE IT LOOK LIKE HE WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED KAREN.
PUSH
CHINK
WAIT, WHY DID YOU RE-PLACE THE NECKLACE WITH A FAKE?!
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT A WOMAN LIKE HER TO DIRTY MY NECKLACE WITH BLOOD.


OHH... BEFORE I GO WITH THE POLICE, I'D LIKE JUST A LITTLE BLOOD, PLEASE
TAMARA, JUST A LITTLE BEFORE I GO?
NO WAY.
UGGHH
JUST TAKE DEEP BREATHS
IT SAYS THEY FOUND THE KIDNAPPED MODELS' BODIES UNDERNEATH HER HOUSE

JINGLE
COULD IT BE THAT EVEN MRS. TESHIGAWARA WAS CURSED BY THE NECKLACE?
KILLING PEOPLE TO BECOME YOUNGER
gah!
TAMARA, IS THAT THE NECKLACE!?
HEHE, I SNATCHED IT DURING THE CONFUSION
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT NECKLACE MIGHT BE CURSED!
IT'S OKAY! WE CAN BREAK IT APART AND SELL THE PIECES OVERSEAS!
WHY YOU! WE REALLY WILL BE CURSED!
✦END✦

TAMARA

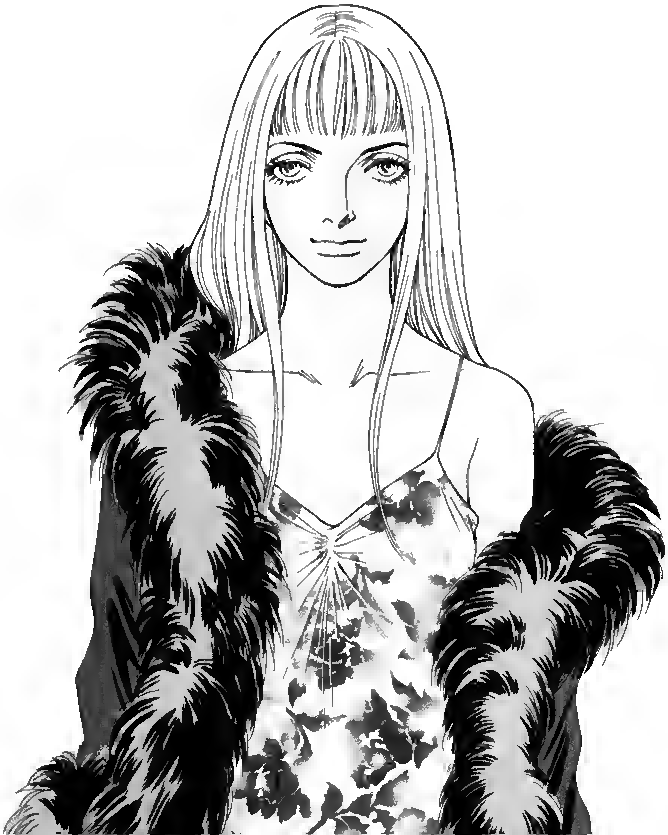
Scans & Cleaning:
Totochan
Translations: Belial
Edits: LadyNagisa
QC: Kalendel & Totochan

Storm in Heaven www.storminheaven.net
k2less http://in2k2.digital-takeout.net
#in2k2@irc.irchighway.net in2k2.k2less@gmail.com

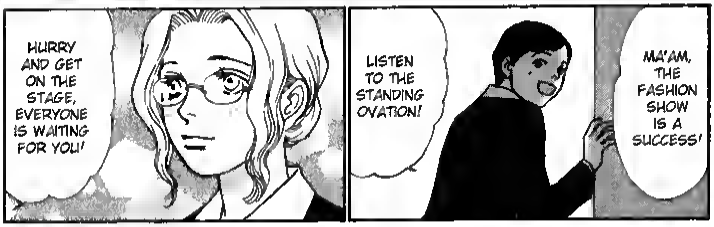
TAMARA

Chapter 2 Part One

TAMARA



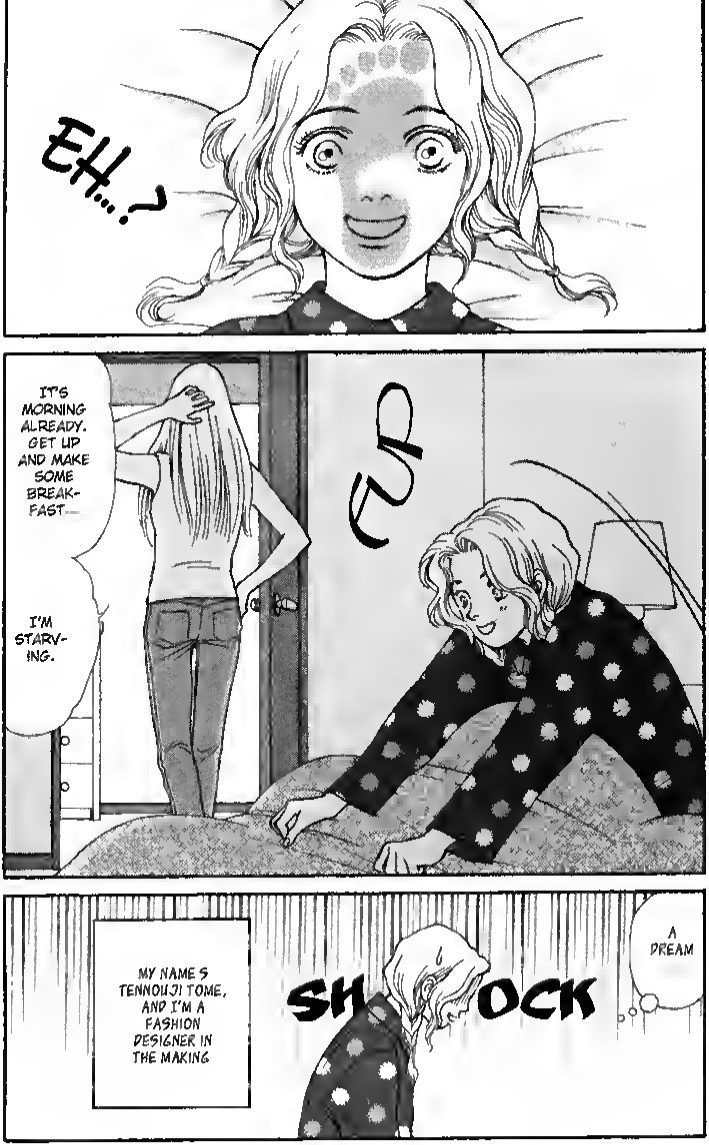
YOUR DESIGNS ALWAYS MAKE ME SIGH IN WONDER, MS. TENNOUJI!
AMAZING!


HURRY AND GET ON THE STAGE, EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU!
LISTEN TO THE STANDING OVATION!
MA'AM, THE FASHION SHOW IS A SUCCESS!

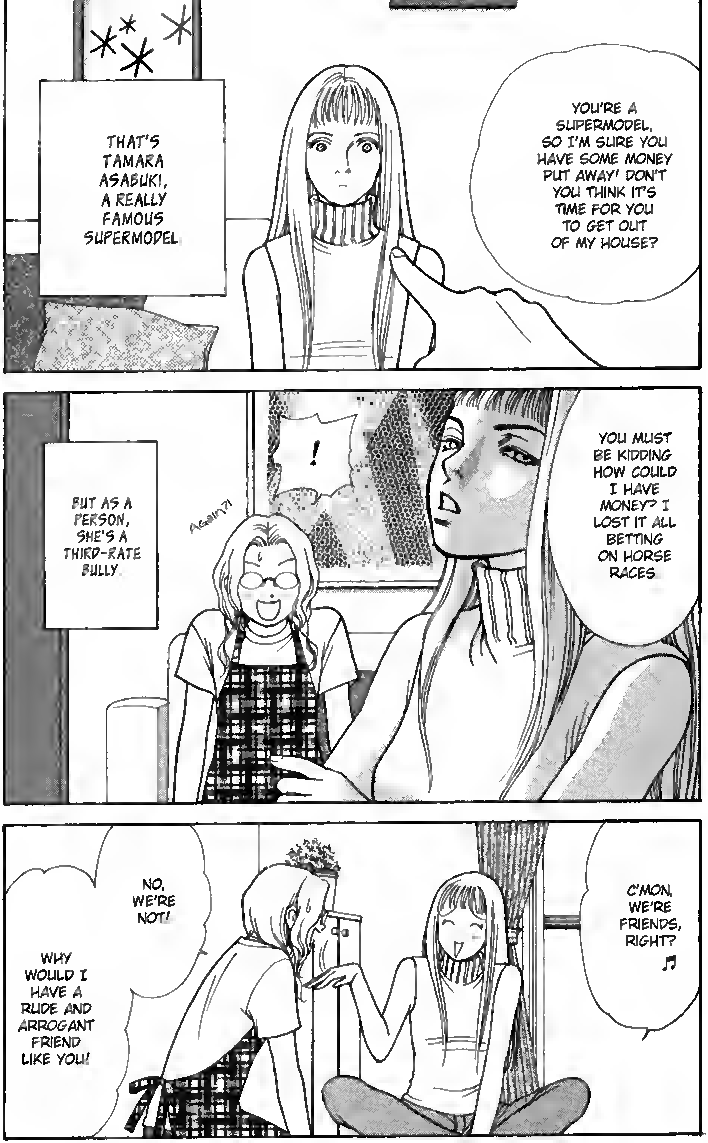
FLASH
FLASH
HHHHO

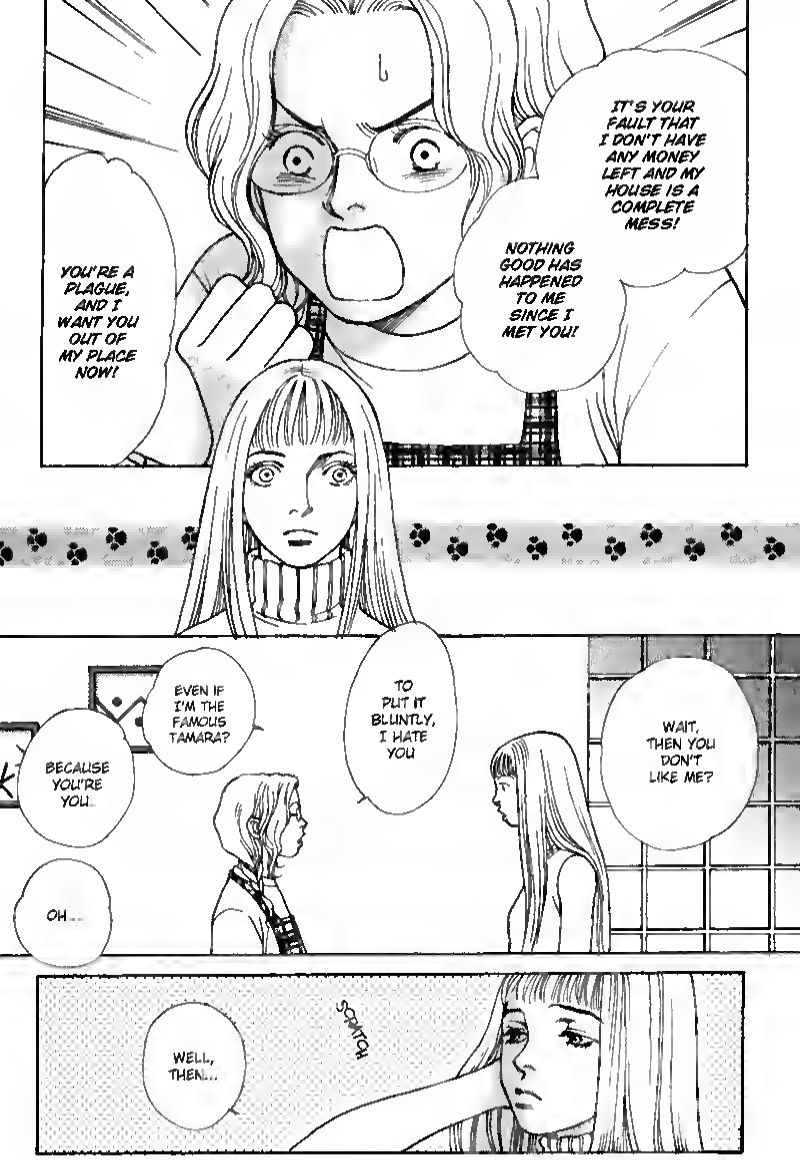
THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WAITING FOR!
AH...
THIS APPLAUSE ...
MY MOMENT OF GLORY!
IT'S FINALLY HERE...
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY GRASP!

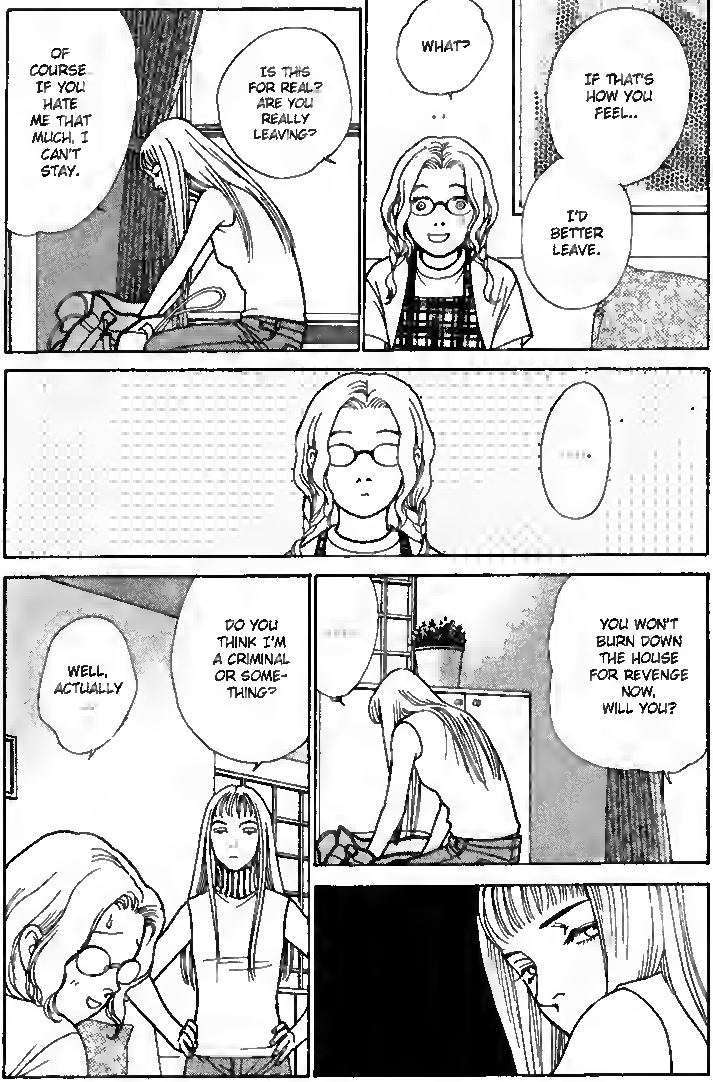
TH UMP
HOW CAN YOU SMILE AND CRY WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING?
YOU WEIRDO!

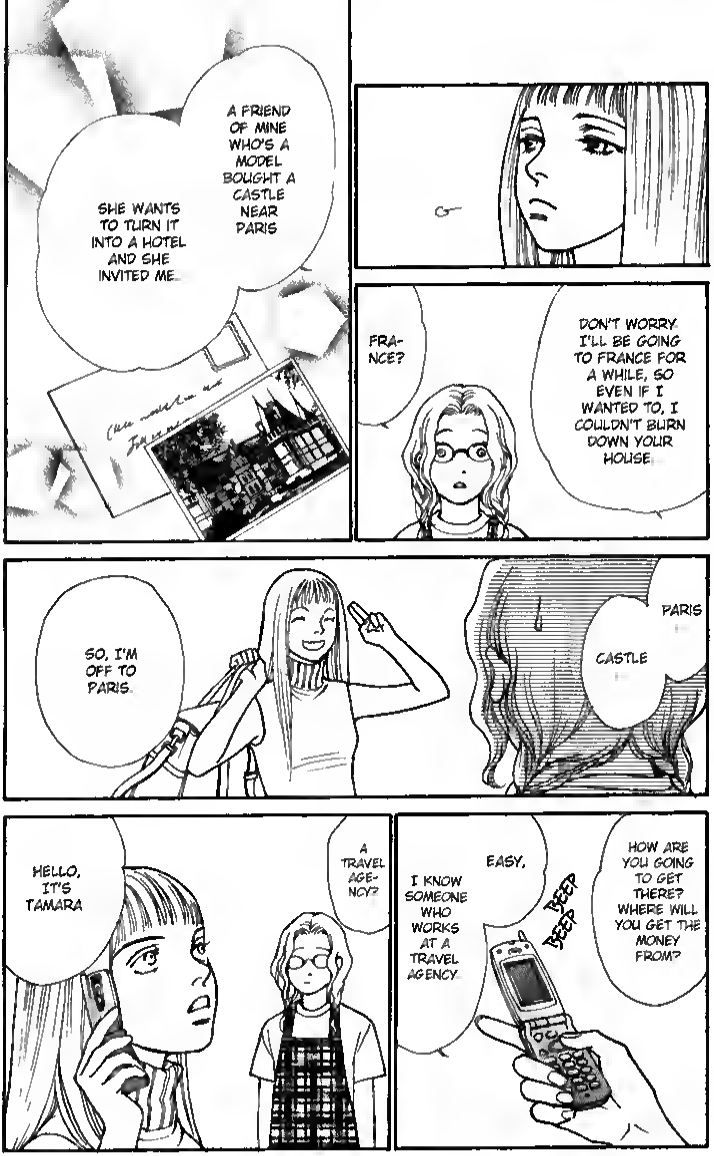

EH...?
IT'S MORNING ALREADY. GET UP AND MAKE SOME BREAK-FAST—
I'M STARV-ING.
UP
A DREAM
SHOCK
MY NAME'S TENNOUJI TOME, AND I'M A FASHION DESIGNER IN THE MAKING

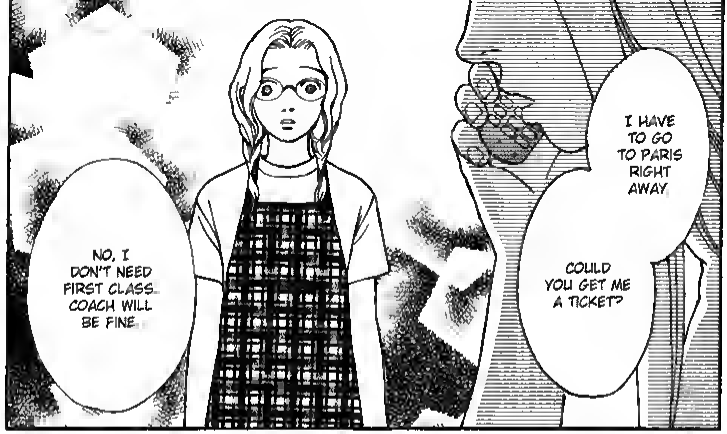
I DREAM OF OPENING SHOPS ALL AROUND THE WORLD
SLAM
TOME! I WANT THE BACON ALL NICE AND CRISPY!
DISAPPOINTED
IT WAS JUST A NICE DREAM...
JUST WHEN ON EARTH ARE YOU PLANNING TO MOVE OUT?
日刊競馬
ナッズを探る!!

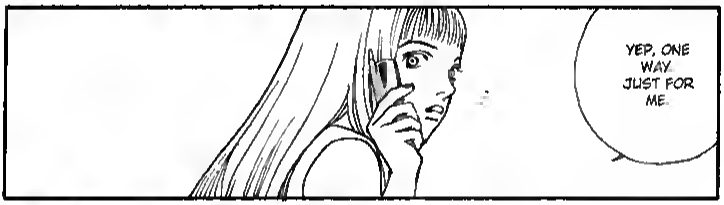

THAT'S TAMARA ASABUKI, A REALLY FAMOUS SUPERMODEL.
YOU'RE A SUPERMODEL, SO I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOME MONEY PUT AWAY! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF MY HOUSE?
BUT AS A PERSON, SHE'S A THIRD-RATE BULLY.
Again?!
!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING HOW COULD I HAVE MONEY? I LOST IT ALL BETTING ON HORSE RACES.
WHY WOULD I HAVE A RUDE AND ARROGANT FRIEND LIKE YOU!!
NO, WE'RE NOT!
C'MON, WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT? ♫

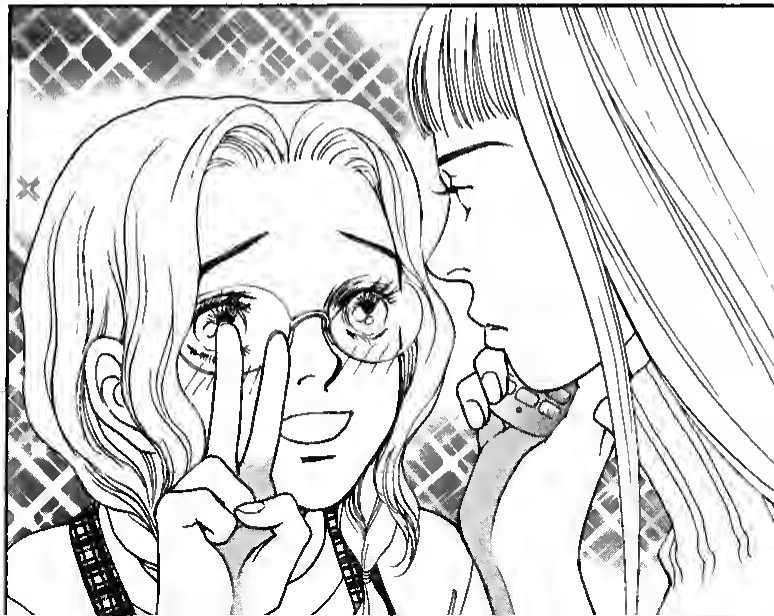

IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT AND MY HOUSE IS A COMPLETE MESS!
NOTHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED TO ME SINCE I MET YOU!
YOU'RE A PLAGUE, AND I WANT YOU OUT OF MY PLACE NOW!
WAIT, THEN YOU DON'T LIKE ME?
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, I HATE YOU
EVEN IF I'M THE FAMOUS TAMARA?
BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU...
OH...
SCRATCH
WELL, THEN...

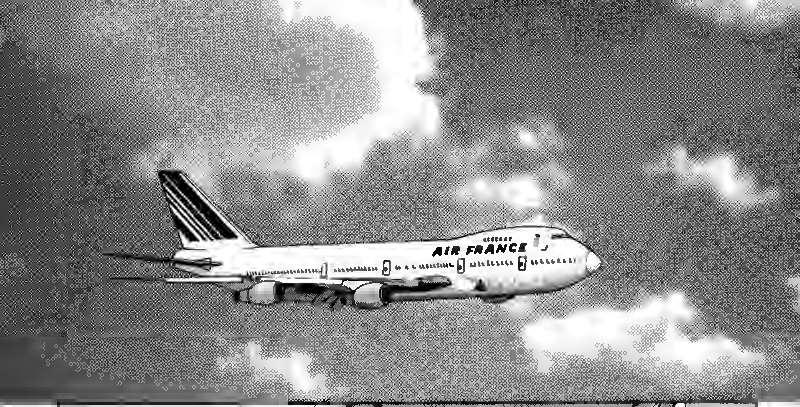

WHAT?
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL..
I'D BETTER LEAVE.
IS THIS FOR REAL? ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING?
OF COURSE IF YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH, I CAN'T STAY.
.....
YOU WON'T BURN DOWN THE HOUSE FOR REVENGE NOW, WILL YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M A CRIMINAL OR SOMETHING?
WELL, ACTUALLY

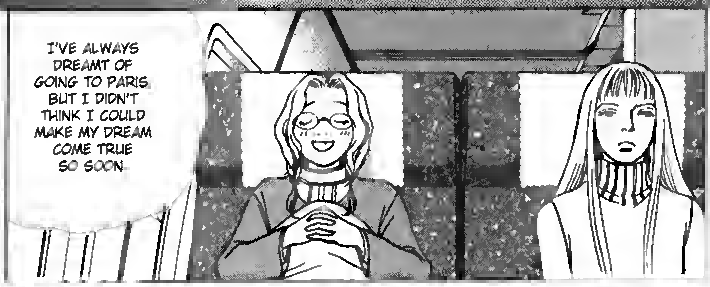

A FRIEND OF MINE WHO'S A MODEL BOUGHT A CASTLE NEAR PARIS
SHE WANTS TO TURN IT INTO A HOTEL AND SHE INVITED ME.
Or
FRA-NCE?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE GOING TO FRANCE FOR A WHILE, SO EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I COULDN'T BURN DOWN YOUR HOUSE.
SO, I'M OFF TO PARIS.
CASTLE
PARIS
HELLO, IT'S TAMARA
A TRAVEL AGE-NCY?
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WORKS AT A TRAVEL AGENCY.
EASY,
BEEP BEEP
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THERE? WHERE WILL YOU GET THE MONEY FROM?


I HAVE TO GO TO PARIS RIGHT AWAY.
COULD YOU GET ME A TICKET?
NO, I DON'T NEED FIRST CLASS. COACH WILL BE FINE.

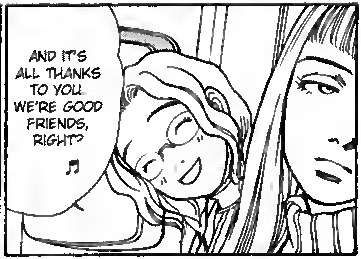

YEP, ONE WAY. JUST FOR ME.

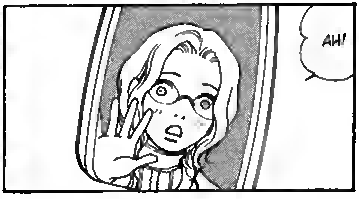



AIR FRANCE

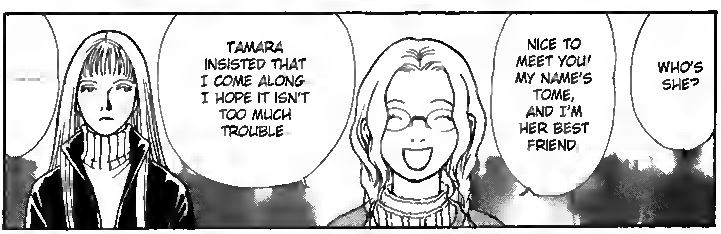

I'VE ALWAYS DREAMT OF GOING TO PARIS, BUT I DIDN'T THINK I COULD MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE SO SOON.

LOOK, IT'S PARIS!


AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU. WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS, RIGHT? ♫


AH!

HEY, ELLEN
HELLO, TAMARA!

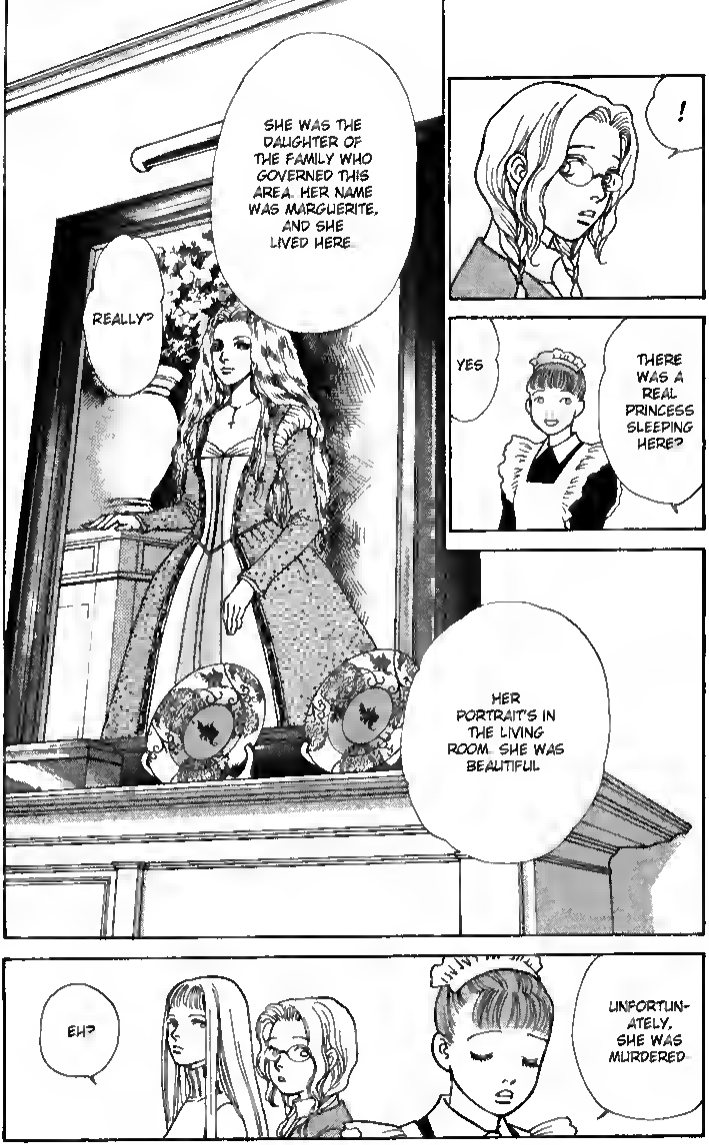

...
TAMARA INSISTED THAT I COME ALONG I HOPE IT ISN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE
NICE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME'S TOME, AND I'M HER BEST FRIEND
WHO'S SHE?

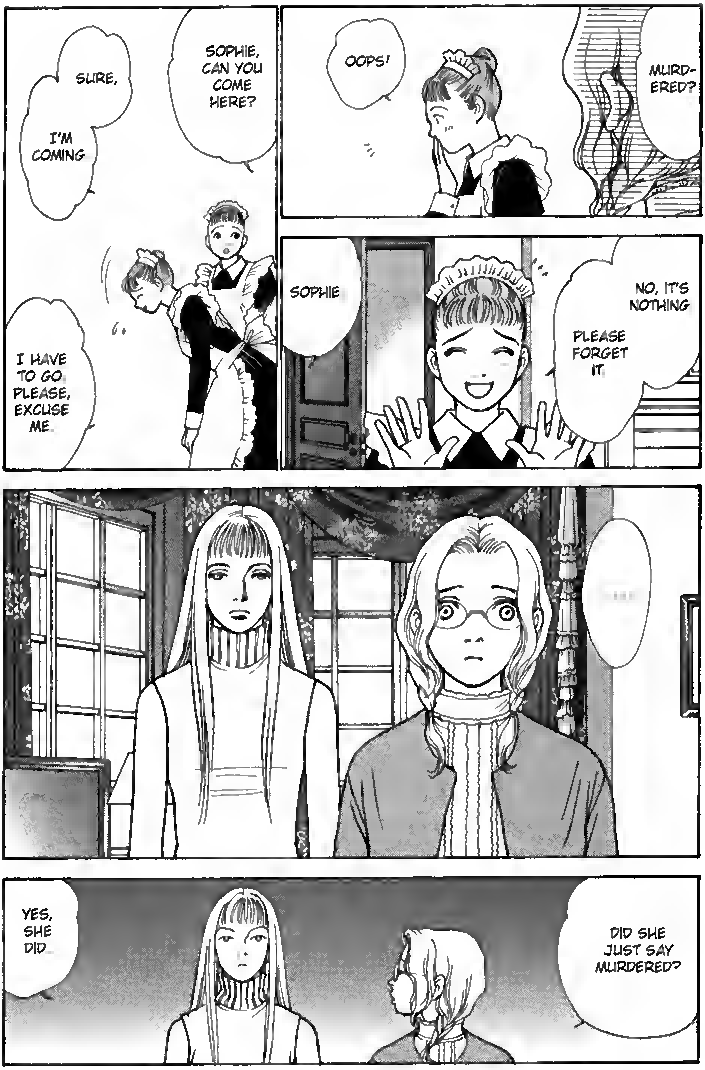
YOU SAID YOU'RE A DESIGNER?
PARIS EST
I'M JUST STARTING OUT.
WELL, NOT REALLY.
THEN WE'RE COL-LEAGUES ...
YEAH, BUT IT WAS REALLY CHEAP.
AND THAT YOU'RE MAKING IT INTO A HOTEL...
I THINK IT'S INCREDIBLE YOU'VE BOUGHT A CASTLE,

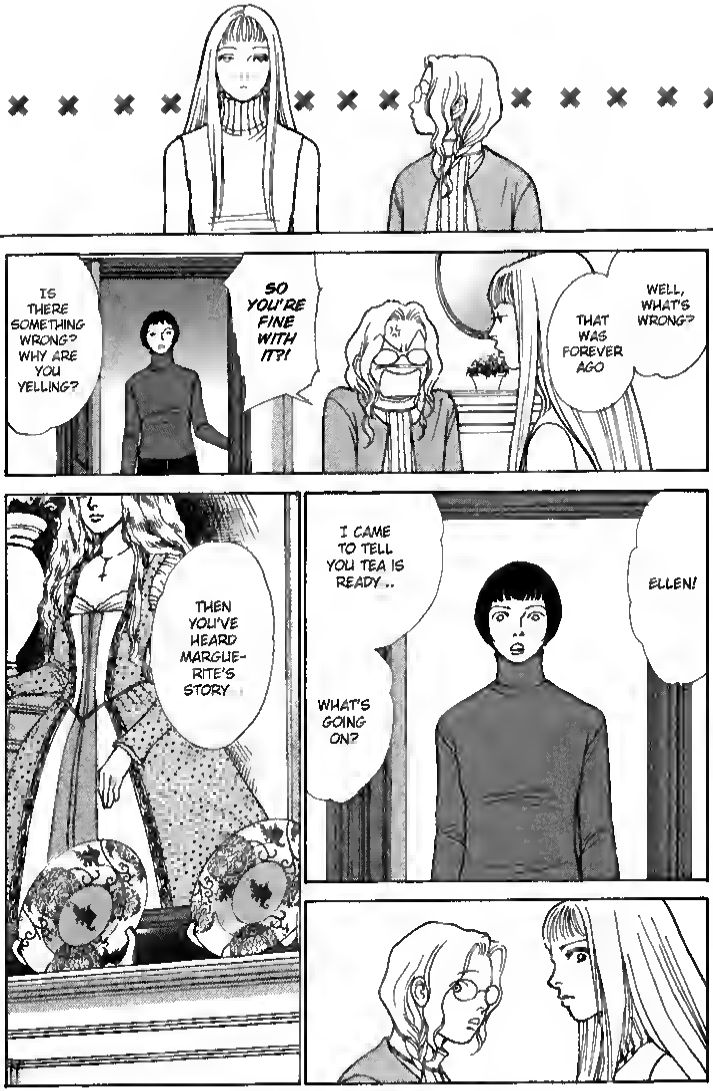
ACTUALLY, I NEED YOU TO TEST THE HOTEL...
TEST IT?
I'VE RENOVATED IT, BUT IT'S VERY OLD.
THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME PROBLEM AREAS, SO...
I GET IT
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU, BUT I NEED A HELPING HAND...
NO WORRIES.
NOTHING CAN BE WORSE THAN LIVING WITH TAMARA
AH...
:
HERE IT IS...

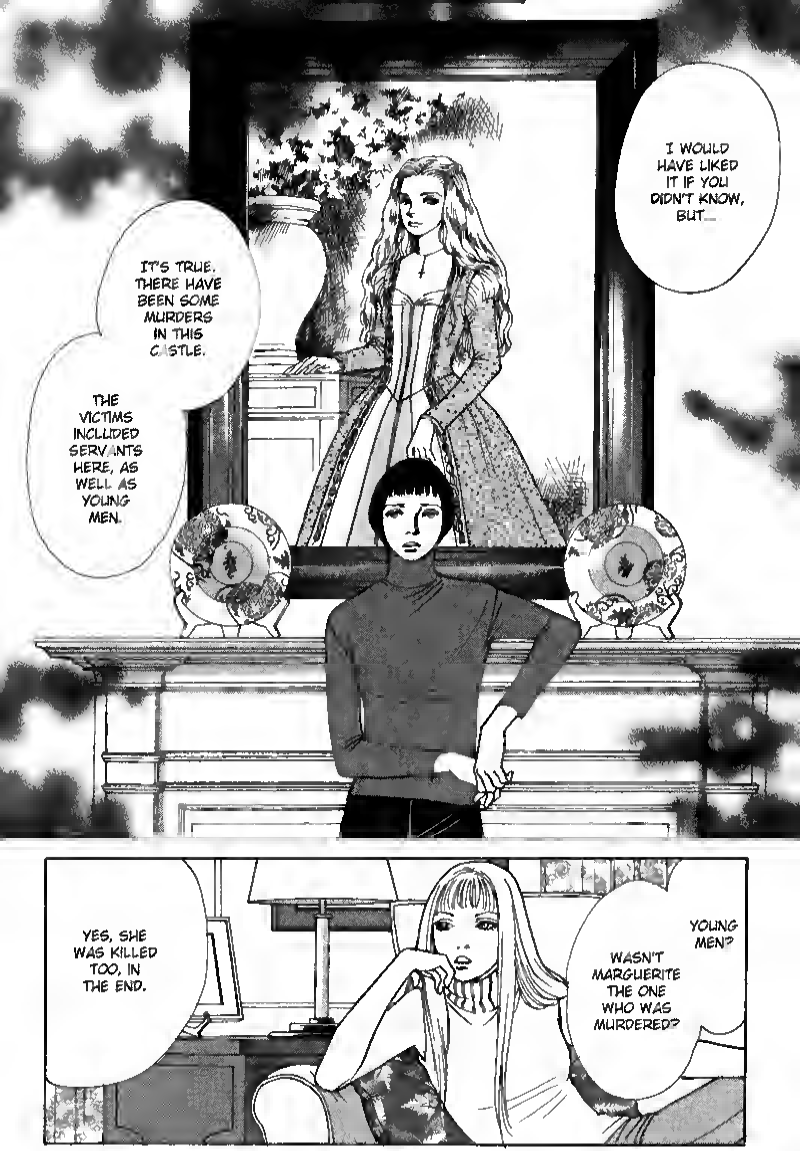
WHOA.
IT REALLY IS A CASTLE!
AMAZING!
WELCOME LADIES, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU~

THIS ROOM IS...
GORGEOUS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I FEEL LIKE I'M A PRINCESS.
ACTUALLY, A PRINCESS DID USE THIS ROOM ONCE.

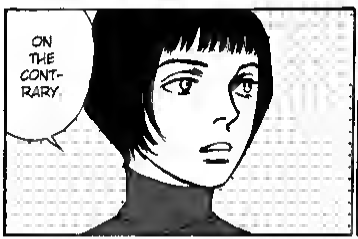

SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE FAMILY WHO GOVERNED THIS AREA. HER NAME WAS MARGUERITE, AND SHE LIVED HERE.
REALLY?
!
THERE WAS A REAL PRINCESS SLEEPING HERE?
YES
HER PORTRAIT'S IN THE LIVING ROOM. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
EH?
UNFORTUN-ATELY, SHE WAS MURDERED.

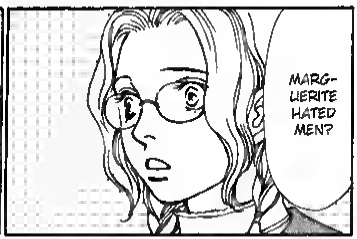

SOPHIE, CAN YOU COME HERE?
SURE, I'M COMING
I HAVE TO GO. PLEASE, EXCUSE ME.
OOPS!
MURD-ERED?
SOPHIE
NO, IT'S NOTHING. PLEASE FORGET IT.
...
YES, SHE DID.
DID SHE JUST SAY MURDERED?


WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT WAS FOREVER AGO
SO YOU'RE FINE WITH IT?!
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG? WHY ARE YOU YELLING?
ELLEN!
I CAME TO TELL YOU TEA IS READY...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEN YOU'VE HEARD MARGUERITE'S STORY

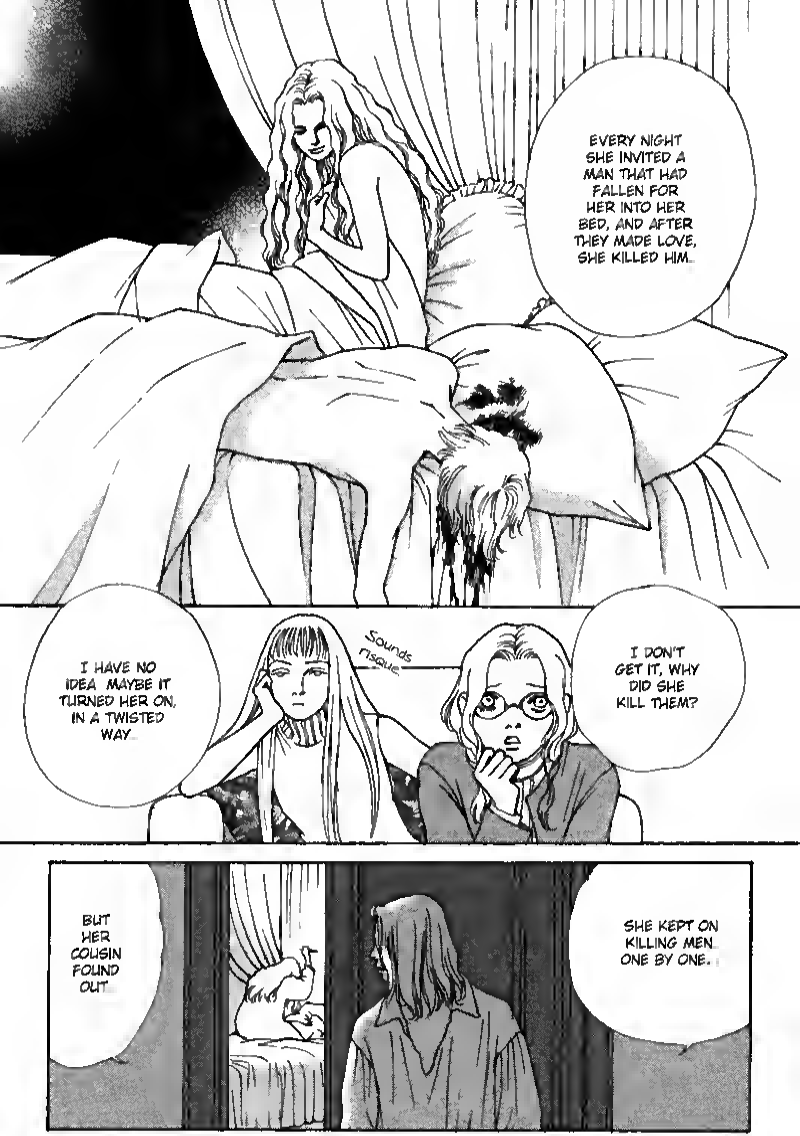

I WOULD HAVE LIKED IT IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW, BUT...
IT'S TRUE. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MURDERS IN THIS CASTLE.
THE VICTIMS INCLUDED SERVANTS HERE, AS WELL AS YOUNG MEN.
YOUNG MEN?
WASN'T MARGUERITE THE ONE WHO WAS MURDERED?
YES, SHE WAS KILLED TOO, IN THE END.

AT THE TIME, SHE WAS FAMOUS FOR HER BEAUTY..
I'VE HEARD THAT MANY MEN CAME HERE JUST TO PROPOSE TO HER.
BUT SHE TURNED THEM ALL DOWN, ONE BY ONE.


ON THE CONT-RARY.

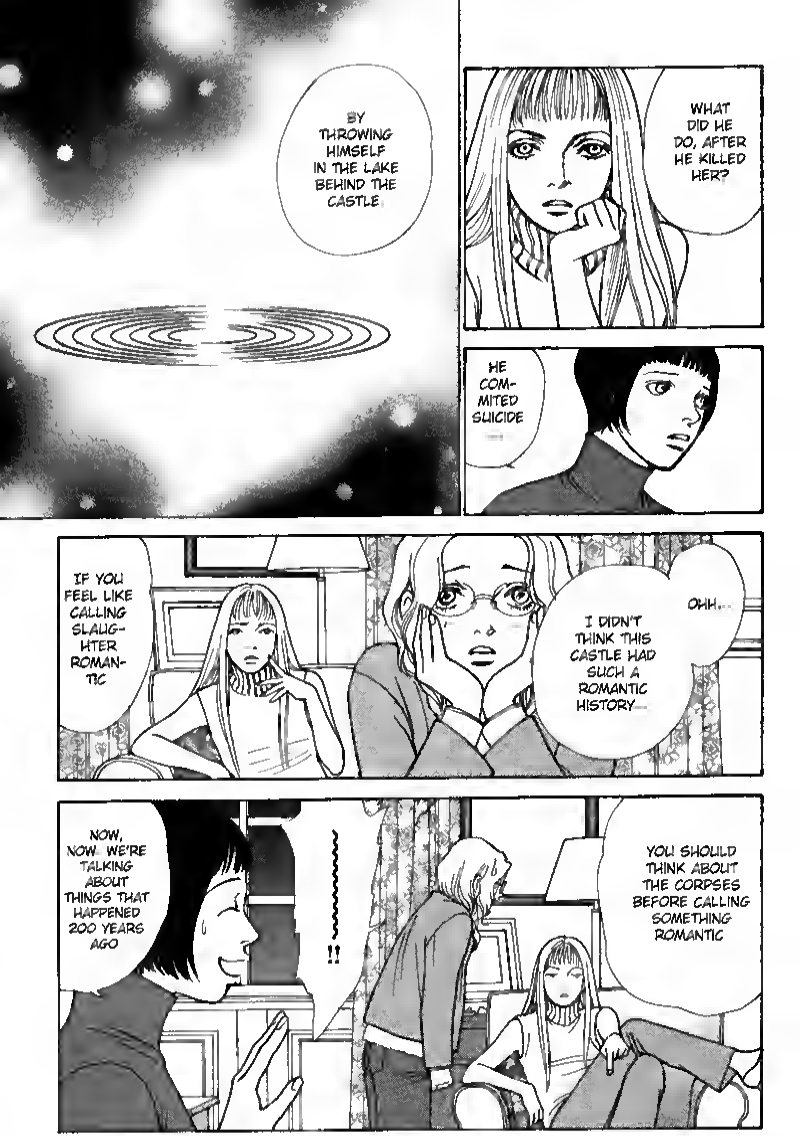

MARG-UERITE HATED MEN?

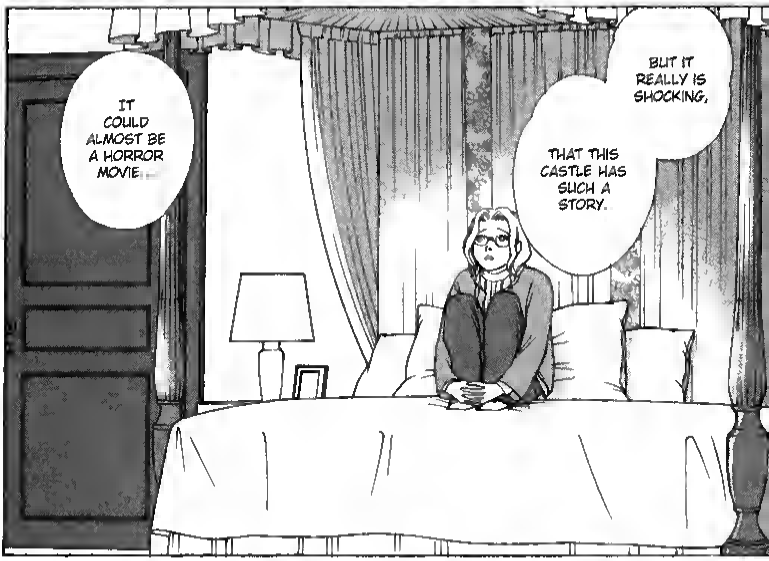
SHE LOVED THEM AND SEDUCED THEM.

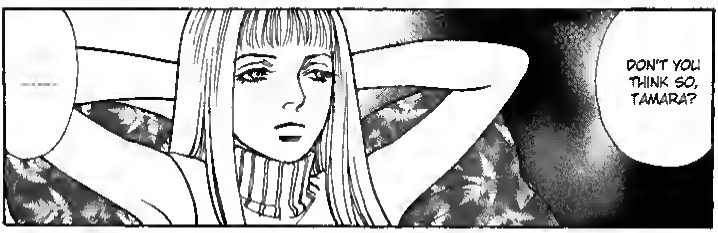

EVERY NIGHT SHE INVITED A MAN THAT HAD FALLEN FOR HER INTO HER BED, AND AFTER THEY MADE LOVE, SHE KILLED HIM.
I DON'T GET IT, WHY DID SHE KILL THEM?
Sounds risque.
I HAVE NO IDEA. MAYBE IT TURNED HER ON, IN A TWISTED WAY.
SHE KEPT ON KILLING MEN ONE BY ONE.
BUT HER COUSIN FOUND OUT.

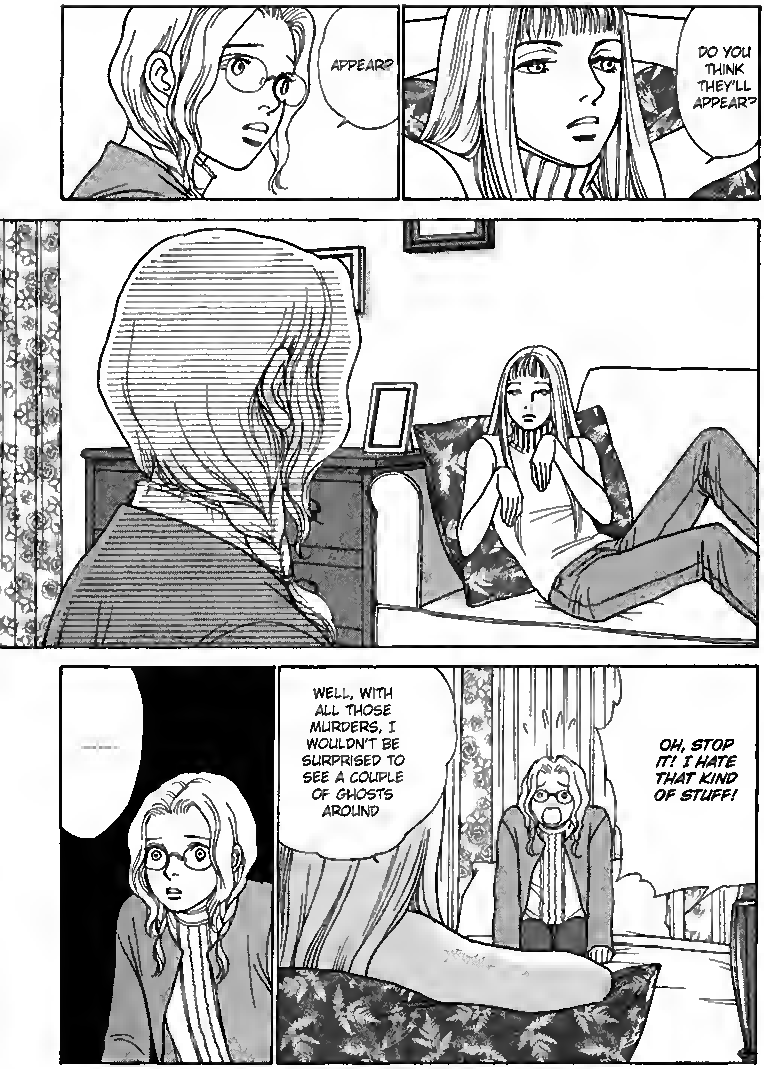
WHO KNOWS MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS IN LOVE WITH HER, TOO...
IN LOVE?
HE COULDN'T PRETEND NOTHING WAS HAPPENING, SO HE POISONED HER..
BUT WHY?
WHY DID HE KILL HER?

HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HER..
HE KNEW SHE WAS A MURDERER, BUT HE KEPT ON LOVING HER
AND WHEN HE COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, HE KILLED HER.

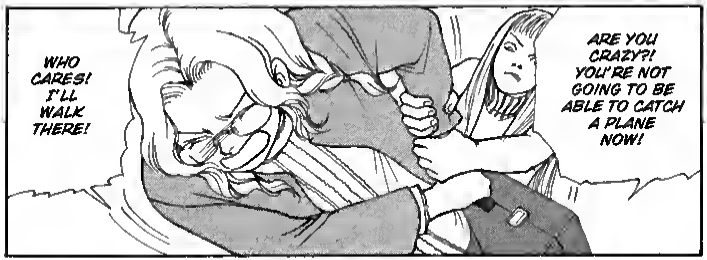

BY THROWING HIMSELF IN THE LAKE BEHIND THE CASTLE
WHAT DID HE DO, AFTER HE KILLED HER?
HE COM-MITED SUICIDE
IF YOU FEEL LIKE CALLING SLAUG-HTER ROMAN-TIC
I DIDN'T THINK THIS CASTLE HAD SUCH A ROMANTIC HISTORY
OHH...
NOW, NOW. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT HAPPENED 200 YEARS AGO
!!
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE CORPSES BEFORE CALLING SOMETHING ROMANTIC

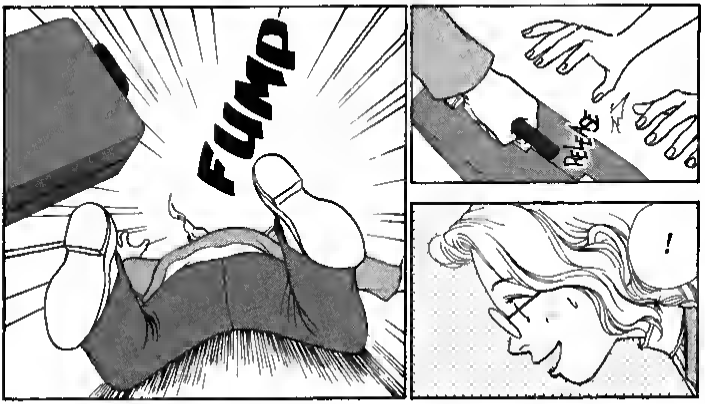

IT COULD ALMOST BE A HORROR MOVIE...
BUT IT REALLY IS SHOCKING,
THAT THIS CASTLE HAS SUCH A STORY.

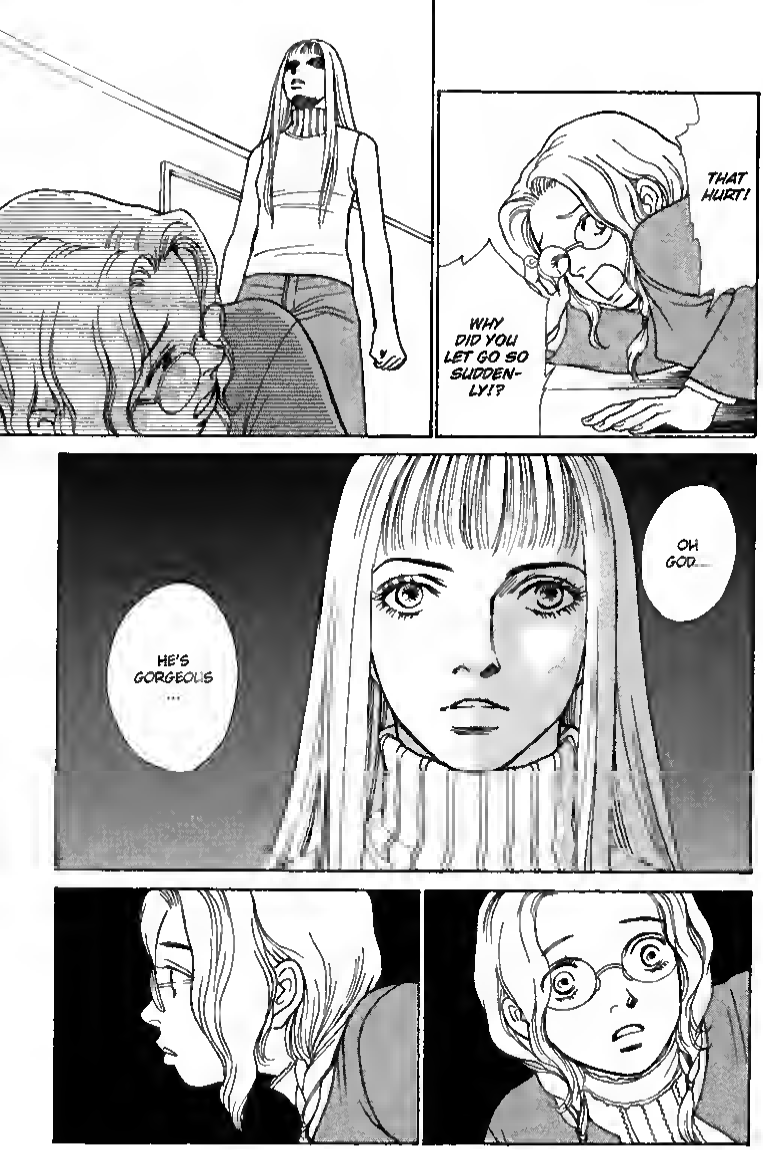

.....
DON'T YOU THINK SO, TAMARA?


APPEAR?
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL APPEAR?
WELL, WITH ALL THOSE MURDERS, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE A COUPLE OF GHOSTS AROUND
OH, STOP IT! I HATE THAT KIND OF STUFF!

WAIT, TOME!
I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?!


WHO CARES! I'LL WALK THERE!
ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CATCH A PLANE NOW!

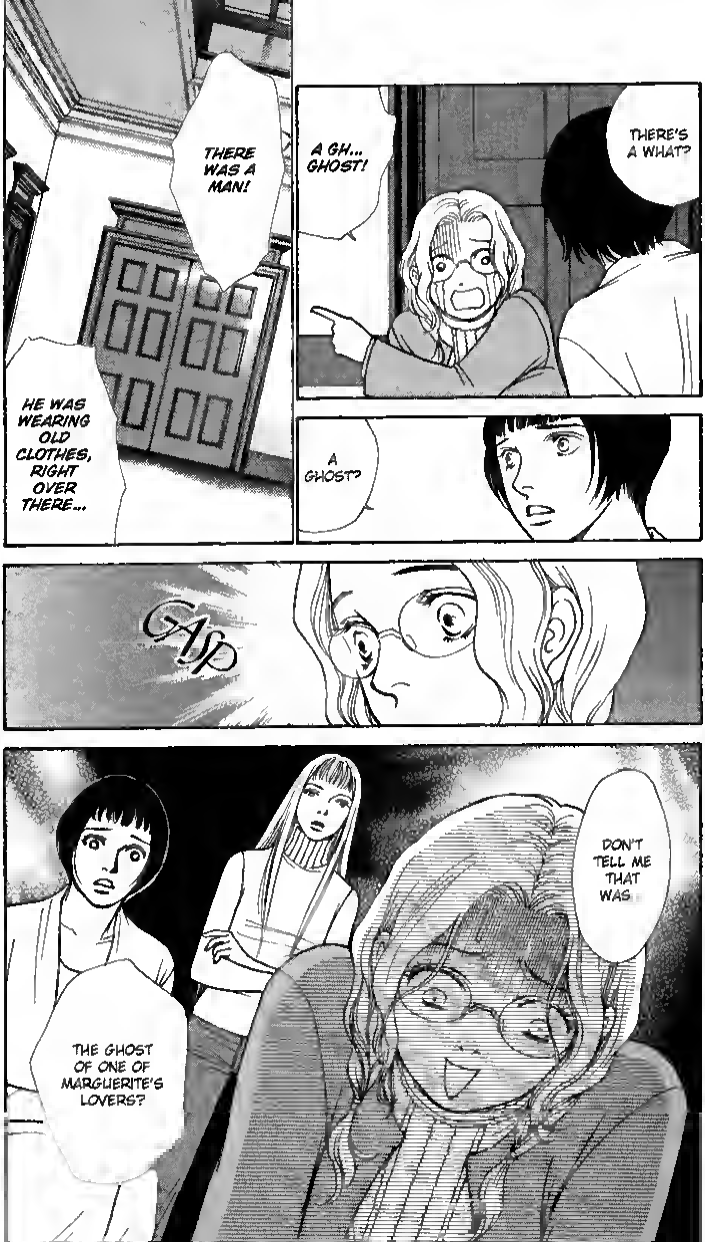

FUMP
GRAB
!

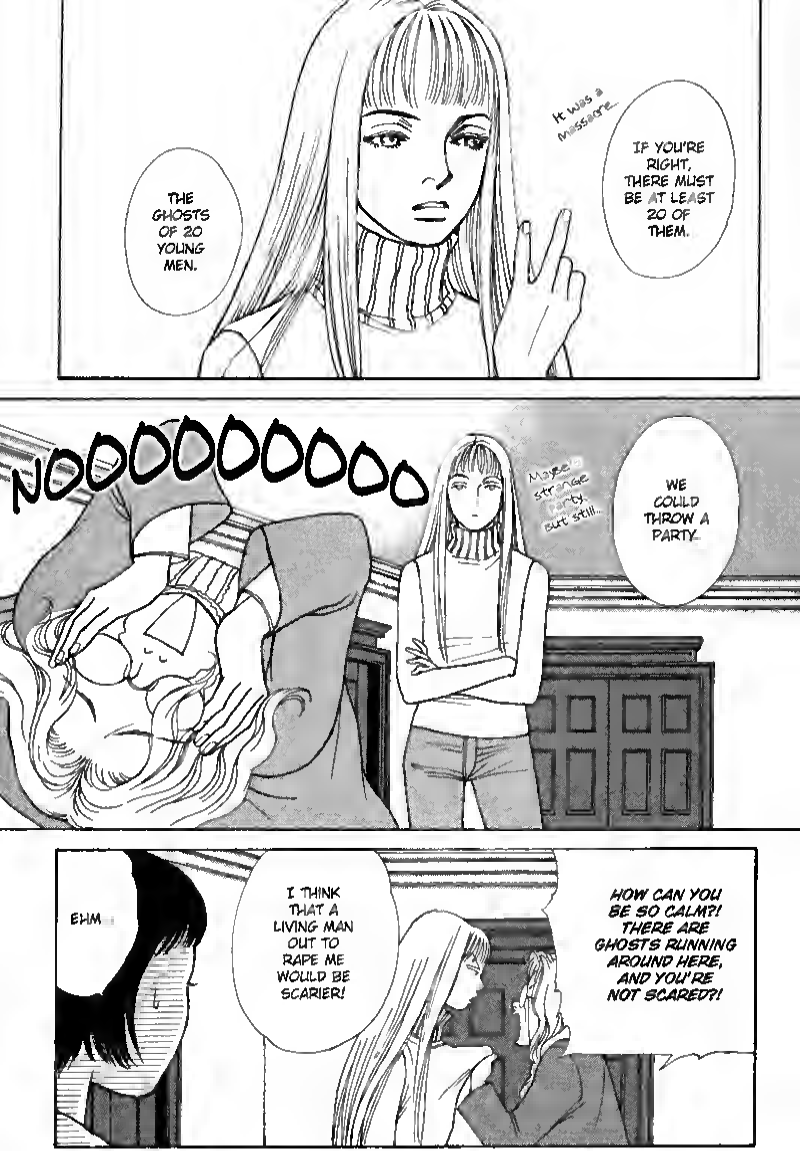

THAT HURT!
WHY DID YOU LET GO SO SUDDENLY!?
OH GOD...
HE'S GORGEOUS...

THAT GHOST...

...

ARGH!!!
SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TH... THERE...
THERE'S A...
ELLEN, HELP ME!


THERE WAS A MAN!
HE WAS WEARING OLD CLOTHES, RIGHT OVER THERE...
A GH... GHOST!
THERE'S A WHAT?
A GHOST?
GASP
DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS
THE GHOST OF ONE OF MARGUERITE'S LOVERS?

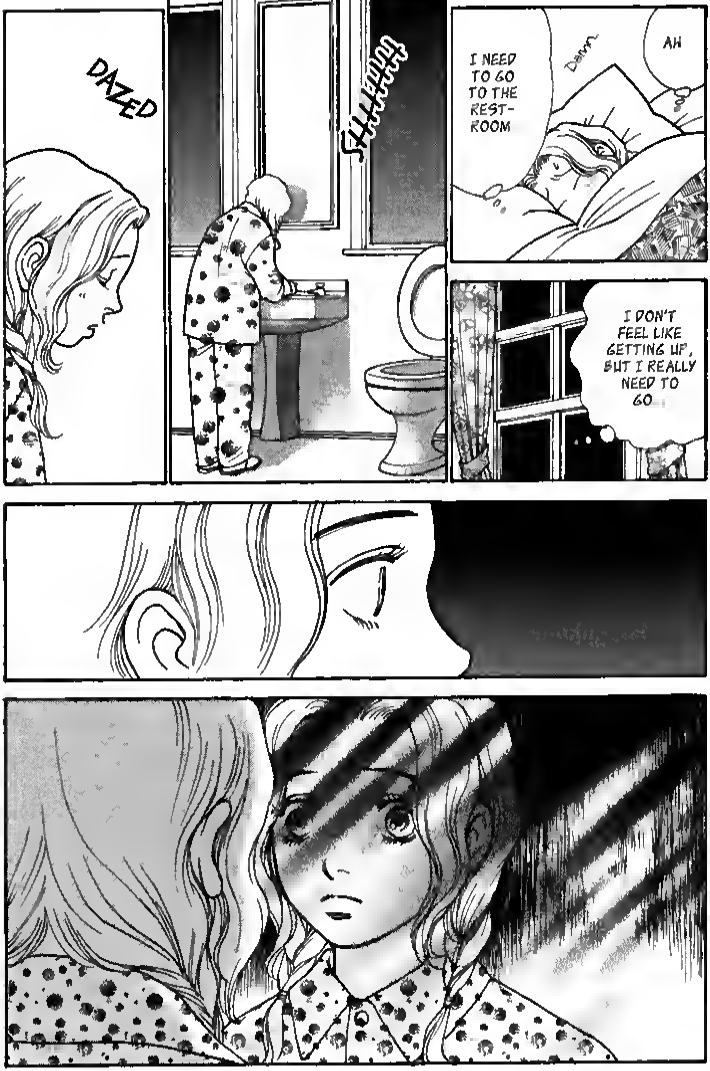

It was a message...
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE MUST BE AT LEAST 20 OF THEM.
THE GHOSTS OF 20 YOUNG MEN.
NOOOOOOOOO
Maybe a strange party... but still!!
WE COULD THROW A PARTY...
EHM...
I THINK THAT A LIVING MAN OUT TO RAPE ME WOULD BE SCARIER!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?! THERE ARE GHOSTS RUNNING AROUND HERE, AND YOU'RE NOT SCARED?!

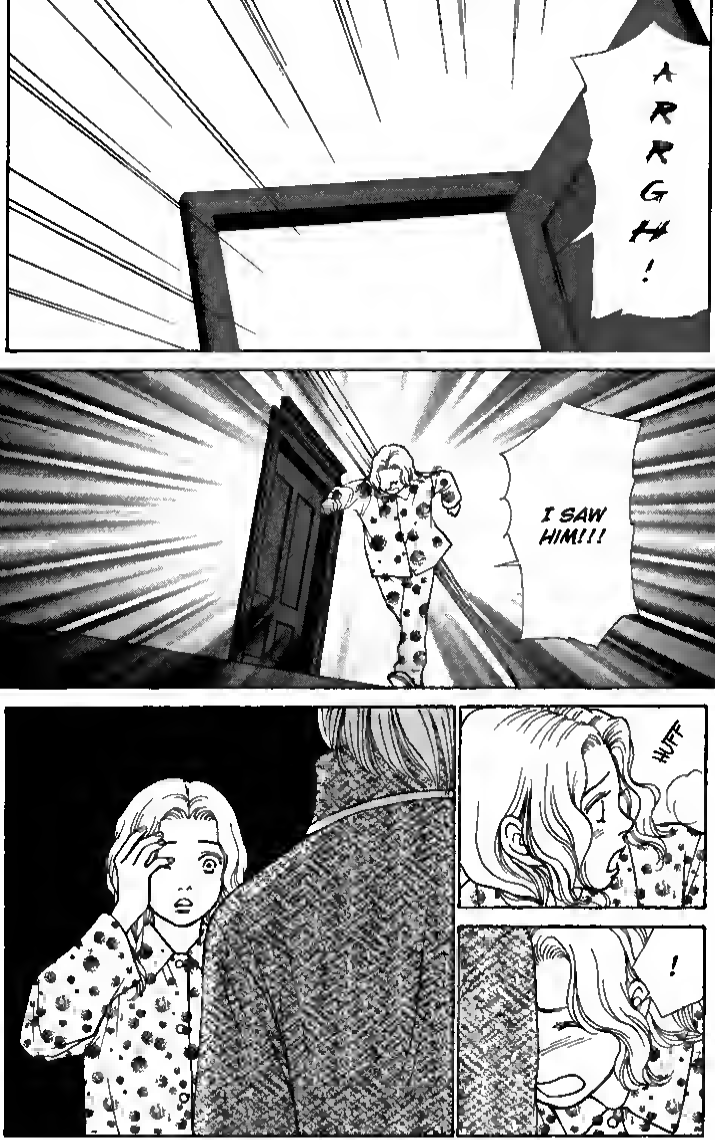
FLASH
ANYWAY, IT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS TO GO OUT NOW...
THERE'S A THUNDER-STORM
HAS IT BEEN GOING ON FOR LONG?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE TV THIS AFTERNOON?
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, WE CAN'T LEAVE
LET'S HAVE A DRINK AND TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT DO WE HAVE?
SOME WINE...
.....
SO YOU REALLY DID SEE...
A GHOST?

DID YOU SEE HIM TOO, TAMARA?
YEP, VAGUELY.
I'M SURE OF IT.
THERE WAS A MAN WEARING OLD-FASHIONED CLOTHES IN THE CORRIDOR.
C'MON, DON'T FIGHT.
I WASN'T EXACTLY TAKING NOTE OF THAT!
FOR A GHOST, HE WAS REALLY HANDSOME,
WASN'T HE?
A HUGE PROBLEM!
BUT IF THERE'S A GHOST HERE, IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR THE HOTEL
THIS CASTLE HAS A REALLY TRAGIC STORY

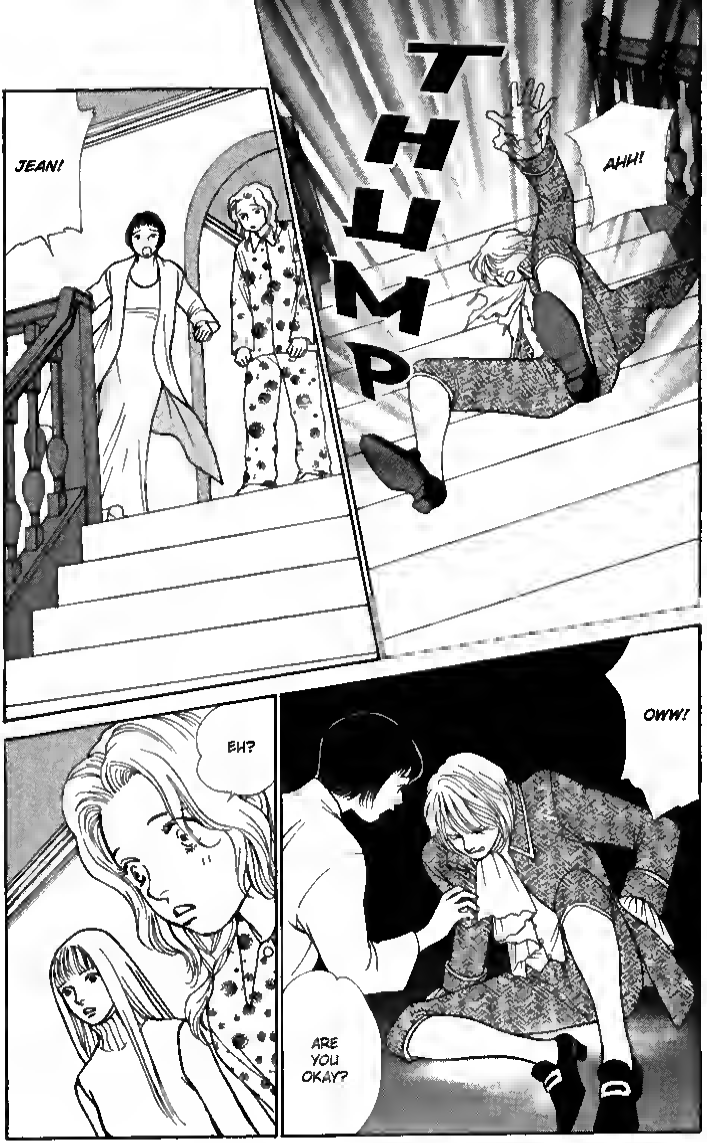
I WOULDN'T THINK SO
I THINK THAT A CASTLE WITH GHOSTS COULD BE A GREAT ATTRACTION
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
YOU THINK SO?
I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS...
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A SIXTH SENSE...
Is that's the way to put it...
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN KILLED HERE!
HOW CAN YOU NOT BE SCARED?
IT'S FINE WITH ME I CAN SLEEP WHEREVER
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT ROOM

WELL, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, WE CAN SWITCH ROOMS
MINE WAS THE GUESTS' ROOM
UGH... I STILL CAN'T FALL ASLEEP
I'M IN A CASTLE WHERE HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPENED, AND THE WEATHER ISN'T HELPING
RUMBLE
SPLASH
I DON'T GET HOW TAMARA CAN BE SO CALM ABOUT IT
I JUST NEED A PLACE OUT OF THE RAIN, DOESN'T MATTER WHERE.
SHE ACTS LIKE A TOMBOY.

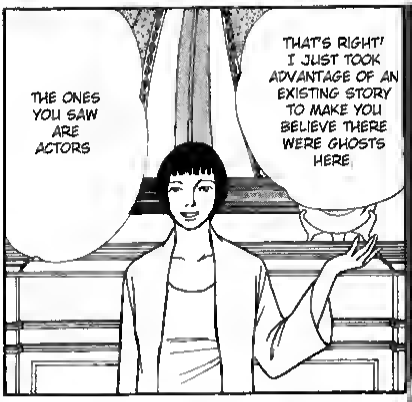

AH
Darn
I NEED TO GO TO THE REST-ROOM
I DON'T FEEL LIKE GETTING UP, BUT I REALLY NEED TO GO
SHHHHH
DAZED

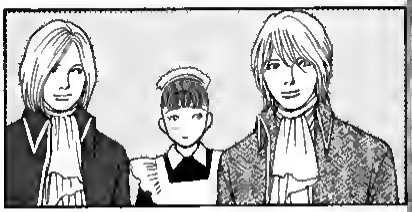

ARRGH!
I SAW HIM!!!
HUFF
!

wwww
PUSH
NOOO!


JEAN!
THUMP
AHH!
OWW!
EH?
ARE YOU OKAY?

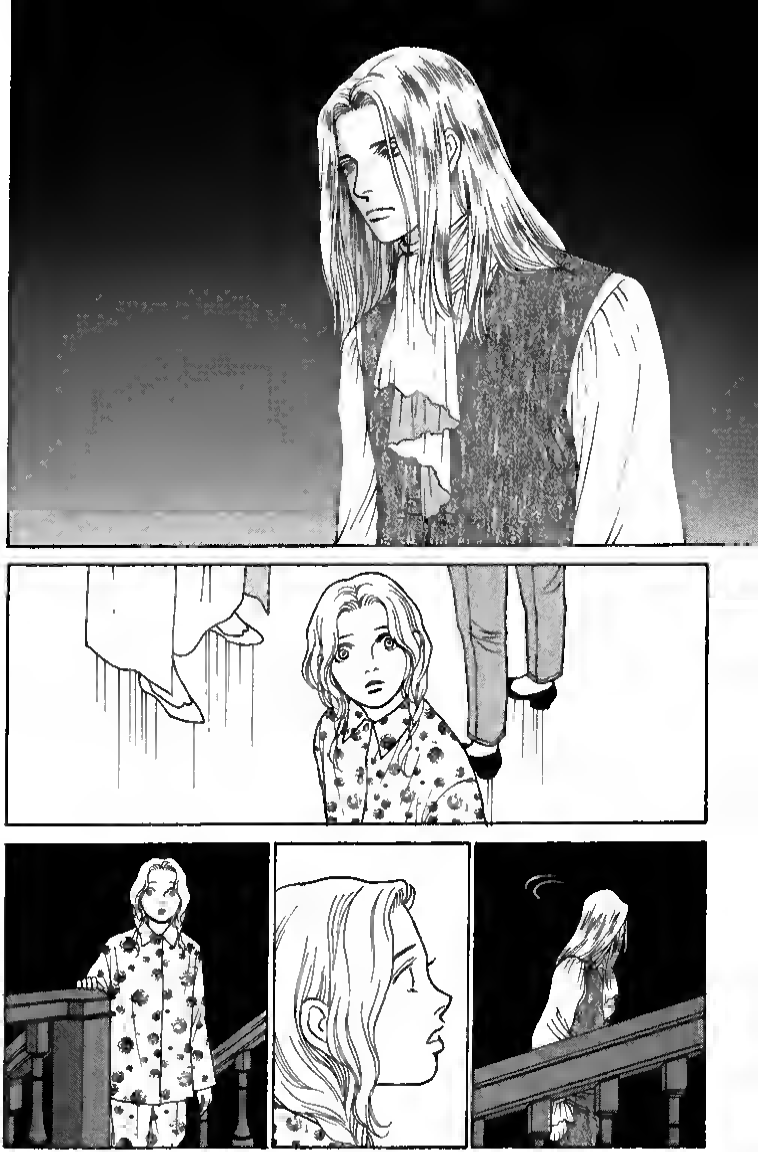
HE ISN'T A GHOST?!


THE ONES YOU SAW ARE ACTORS
THAT'S RIGHT! I JUST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AN EXISTING STORY TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE THERE WERE GHOSTS HERE

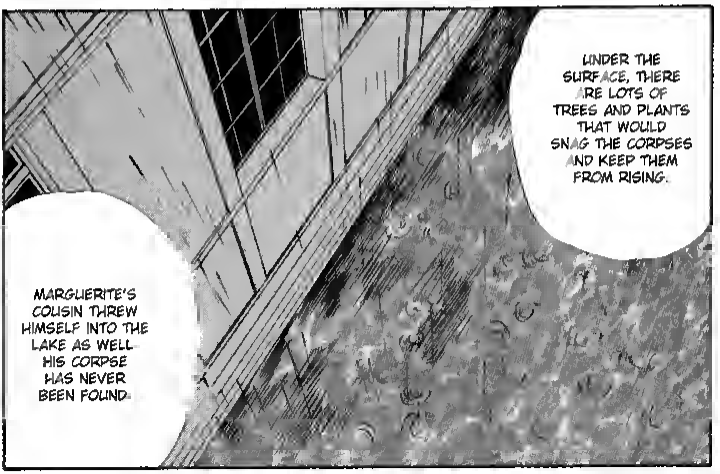


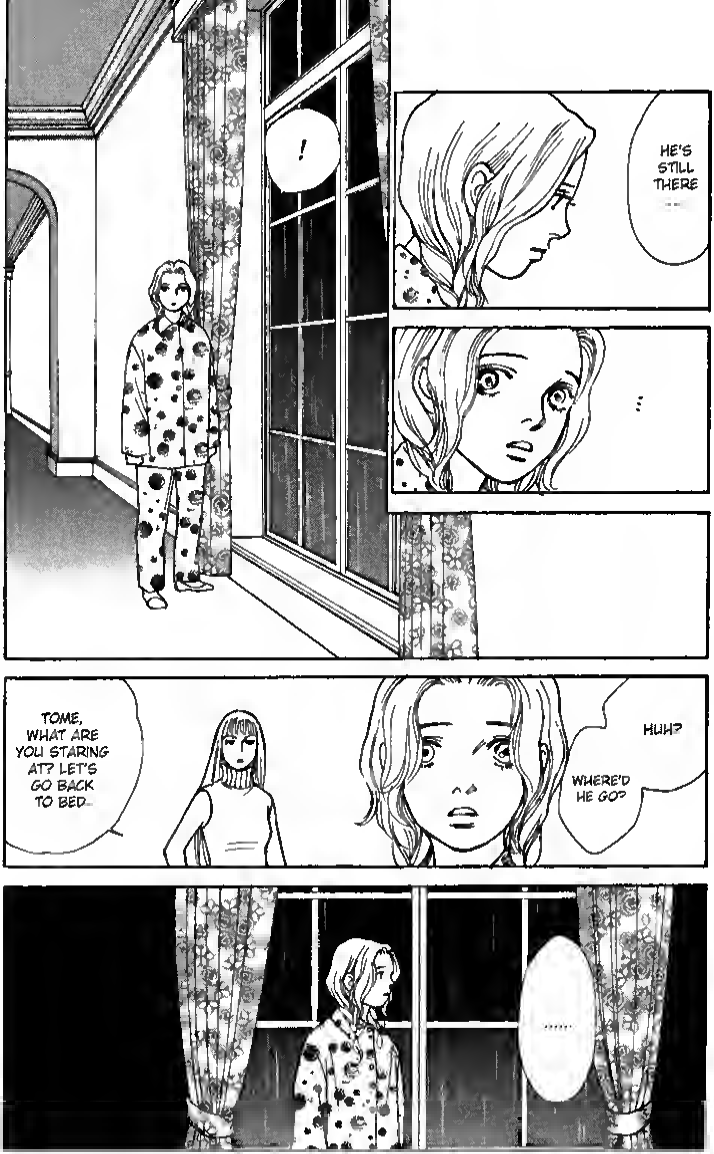
WHAT?!
YOU WERE JUST PRETEND-ING?!

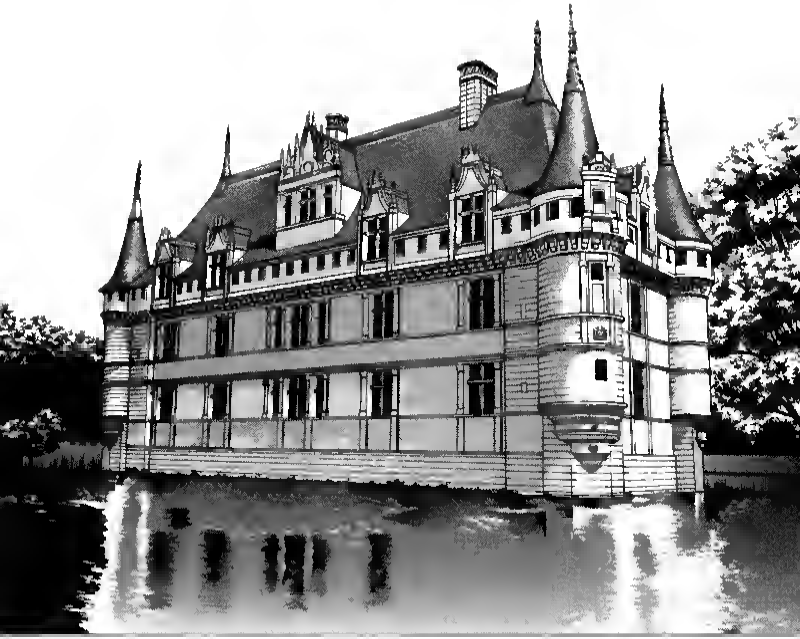
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
WHEN I BOUGHT THE CASTLE, I THOUGHT ...
OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RUMORS THAT WERE RUNNING AROUND ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU OVER, TO STUDY YOUR REACTIONS
DID YOU NOTICE THAT I ONLY HIRED HANDSOME MEN? ISN'T IT EXCITING?
WELL, YEAH, FOR CLIENTS THAT ARE LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE, IT COULD REALLY BE A THRILL



THEY SAY LONG AGO, THE LAKE BELOW THIS CASTLE WAS BOTTOMLESS.


UNDER THE SURFACE, THERE ARE LOTS OF TREES AND PLANTS THAT WOULD SNAG THE CORPSES AND KEEP THEM FROM RISING.
MARGUERITE'S COUSIN THREW HIMSELF INTO THE LAKE AS WELL. HIS CORPSE HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND.


!
HE'S STILL THERE
...
:
TOME, WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT? LET'S GO BACK TO BED.
HUH?
WHERE'D HE GO?
.....



MMMM,
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY, AFTER LAST NIGHT'S STORM.

THEY SAY LONG AGO, THE LAKE BELOW THIS CASTLE WAS BOTTOMLESS.
I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE THAT MARGUERITE'S COUSIN IS STILL THERE...
BOTTOM-LESS...
SLIP
GLUB

FRRGH!

TAMARA

TAMARA

Scans & Cleaning:
Totochan
Translations: Kalendel
Edits: LadyNagisa
QC: Kalendel & Totochan

Storm in Heaven www.storminheaven.net
k2less http://in2k2.digital-takeout.net
#in2k2@irc.irchighway.net in2k2.k2less@gmail.com

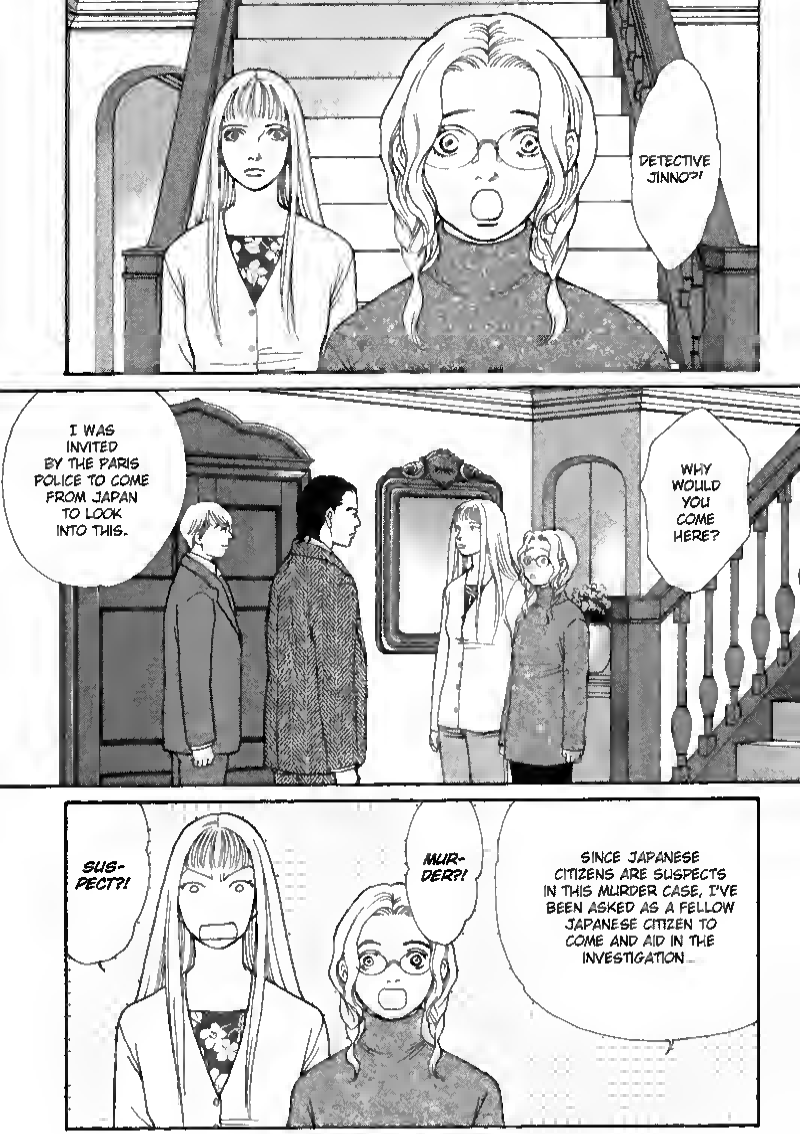
TAMARA

Chapter 3 Part Two

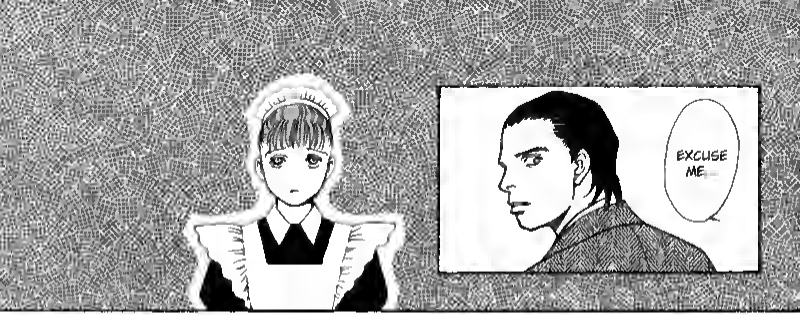
TAMARA

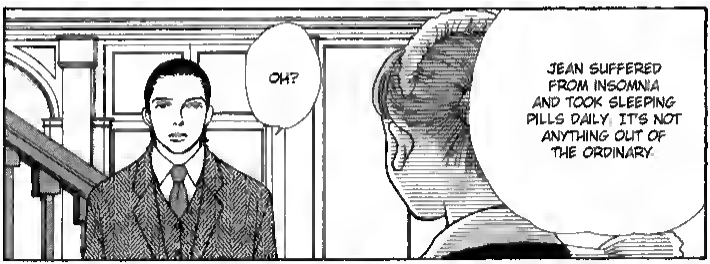
JEAN!

JEAN!
MY NAME IS JINNO, AND I'VE COME FROM THE PARIS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT


DETECTIVE JINNO?!
I WAS INVITED BY THE PARIS POLICE TO COME FROM JAPAN TO LOOK INTO THIS.
WHY WOULD YOU COME HERE?
SUS-PECT?!
MUR-DER?!
SINCE JAPANESE CITIZENS ARE SUSPECTS IN THIS MURDER CASE, I'VE BEEN ASKED AS A FELLOW JAPANESE CITIZEN TO COME AND AID IN THE INVESTIGATION...

FROM THE AUTOPSY RESULTS ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MURDER CASE?!
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SUSPECT?!
A SMALL QUANTITY OF SLEEPING MEDICATION WAS DETECTED IN THE BODY.
ALSO, CONSIDERING THE STRENGTH OF THE STORM LAST NIGHT, WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT THE VICTIM HAD TAKEN A SLEEPING PILL AND WENT OUT TO LOITER AROUND THE LAKE?
SOMEONE SLIPPED THE VICTIM SLEEPING PILLS, AND WHEN HE'D FALLEN ASLEEP, TOOK HIM TO THE LAKE AND DROWNED HIM.
I'D CONSIDER THAT A MORE REASONABLE EXPLANATION, WOULDN'T YOU?
THOUGH SUICIDE CAN'T BE RULED OUT AT THIS POINT, EITHER.


EXCUSE ME...


OH?
JEAN SUFFERED FROM INSOMNIA AND TOOK SLEEPING PILLS DAILY. IT'S NOT ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

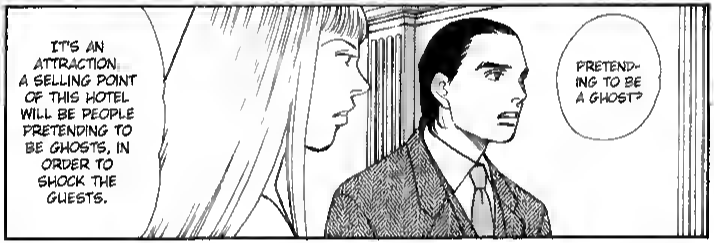
I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT HE'D HAVE GONE OUT THERE UNLESS HE WAS SUDDENLY CALLED OUT
BUT SOMEONE WHO TAKES PILLS TO SLEEP WOULDN'T GO OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM, WOULD THEY?
AND LAST NIGHT THE LAKE WAS DESERTED

GHOST?
DON'T TELL ME MARGUERITE'S GHOST...

I WORK AND LIVE HERE.
AND TO BE HONEST, I'VE SEEN IT...
MARGUERITE'S GHOST.

SOPHIE, DON'T BE SO FOOLISH!
BUT I SAW IT...
HER GHOST DOESN'T EXIST!
JUST BECAUSE THERE WERE MURDERS HERE BACK THEN DOESN'T MEAN...
WAIT.
YOU SAID THERE WERE MURDERS IN THIS CASTLE?
A LONG TIME AGO A PRINCESS LIVED HERE WHO SLEPT WITH MEN AND KILLED THEM
OH?
ELAINE BOUGHT THE CASTLE, RUMORS AND ALL,
AND REMODELED IT.
IF IT ISN'T A RUMOR, AND THERE'S REALLY A GHOST—

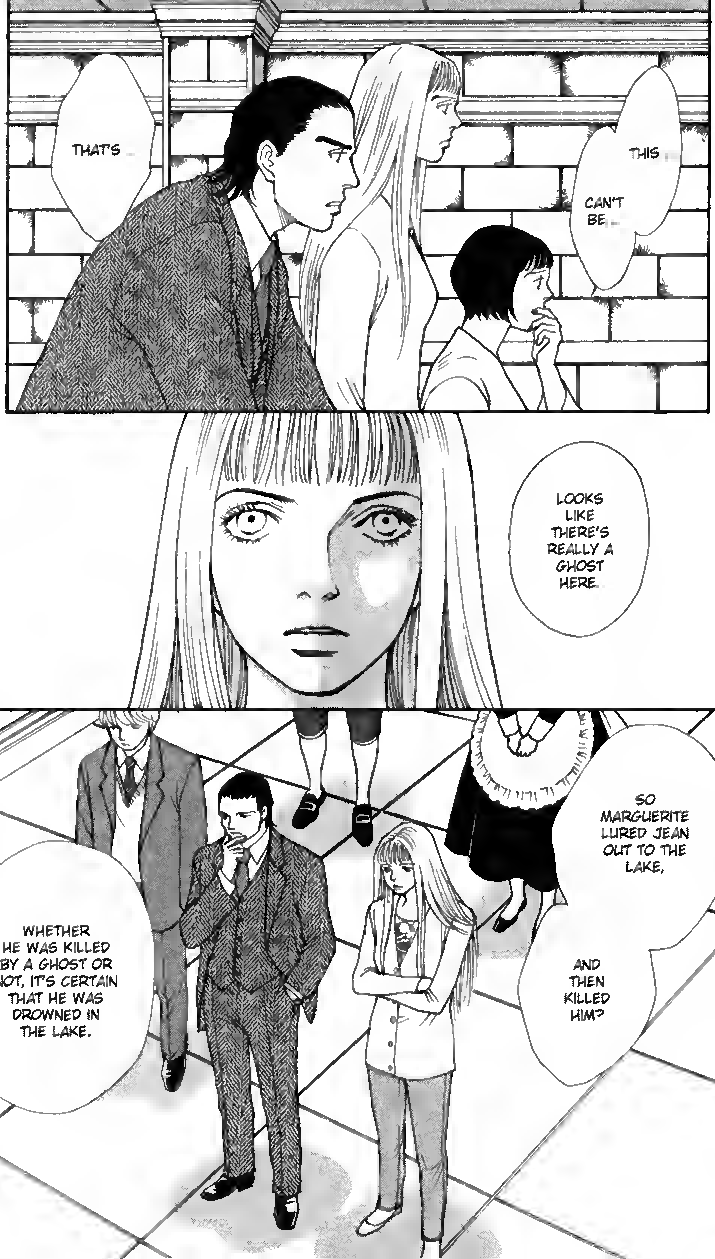
JEAN WAS KILLED BY MARGUERITE'S GHOST..!
THAT'S RIGHT, HE'S LIKE THE MEN SHE KILLED BACK THEN.
HANDSOME, AND WITH HIM PRETENDING TO BE A GHOST, HER CURSE MUST HAVE FALLEN ON HIM.


PRETENDING TO BE A GHOST?
IT'S AN ATTRACTION. A SELLING POINT OF THIS HOTEL WILL BE PEOPLE PRETENDING TO BE GHOSTS, IN ORDER TO SHOCK THE GUESTS.

JEAN WAS CAST IN THE ROLE OF THE GHOST OF ONE OF THE MEN KILLED HERE LONG AGO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING ...

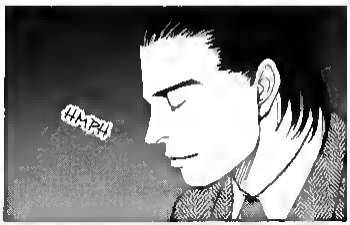
HMMM. THIS IS PRETTY HIGH-TECH
CAMERAS AND RECORDERS WERE INSTALLED IN THE ROOMS AND ALL THE CORRIDORS.
WE'D MONITOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO BETTER DIRECT THE ACTORS PRE-TENDING TO BE GHOSTS
I SEE.

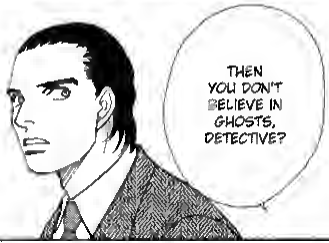
WERE THE CAMERAS ACTIVE LAST NIGHT?
I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THE TAPE.
YES, THEY'RE ON ALL DAY.
!
YESTERDAY WAS THE MONTHLY CHECK, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...
HM?
WHAT'S THAT?!
MARGUERITE!


THAT'S...
THIS CAN'T BE...
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S REALLY A GHOST HERE.
SO MARGUERITE LURED JEAN OUT TO THE LAKE,
AND THEN KILLED HIM?
WHETHER HE WAS KILLED BY A GHOST OR NOT, IT'S CERTAIN THAT HE WAS DROWNED IN THE LAKE.

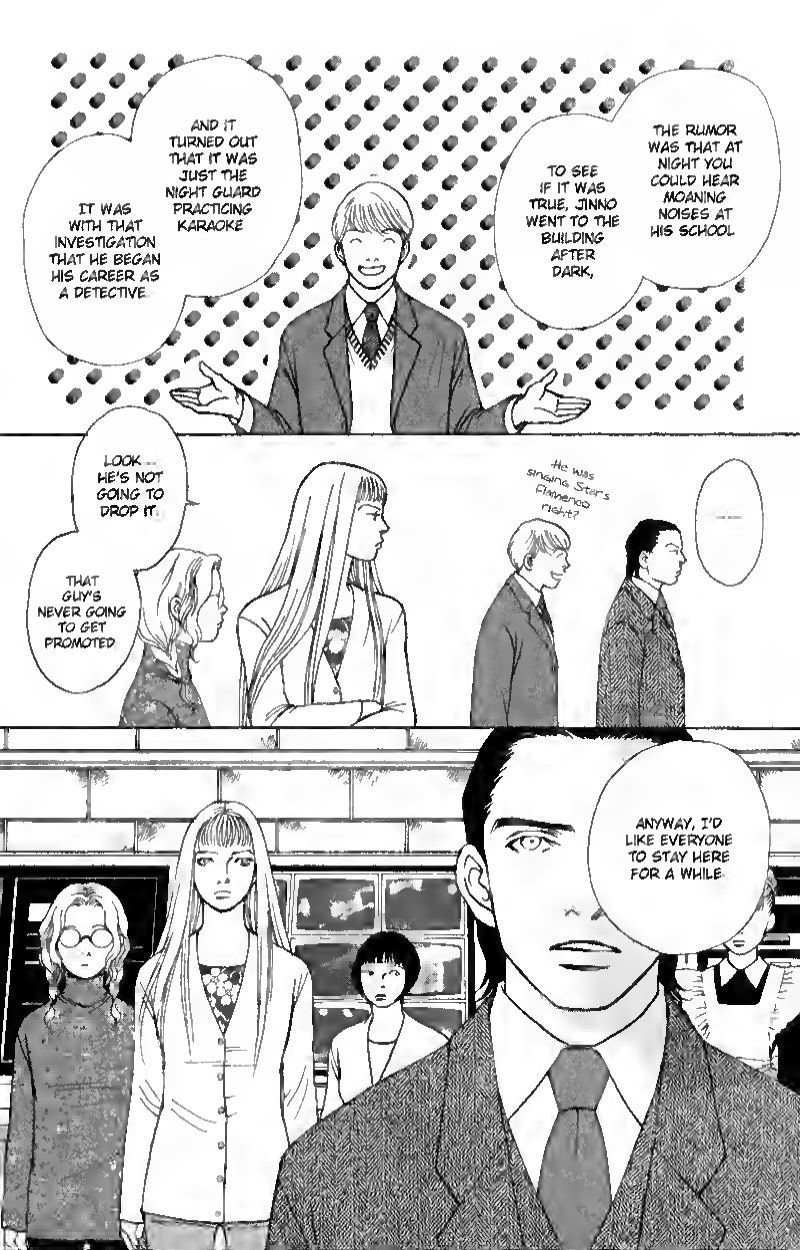
QUIT JOKING AROUND!
NOOOO!
GOOD GOD, HE WAS KILLED BY A GHOST'S CURSE
SO WHAT, I'M NEXT?!
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE JUST BECAUSE I PRETENDED TO BE A GHOST!
DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO STAY HERE?! LET ME GO HOME BEFORE NIGHT FALLS!

NO I CAN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO LEAVE THE CASTLE FOR NOW...
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ARE SUSPECTS
CURSES AREN'T REAL JEAN WAS KILLED BY ONE OF THE PEOPLE HERE

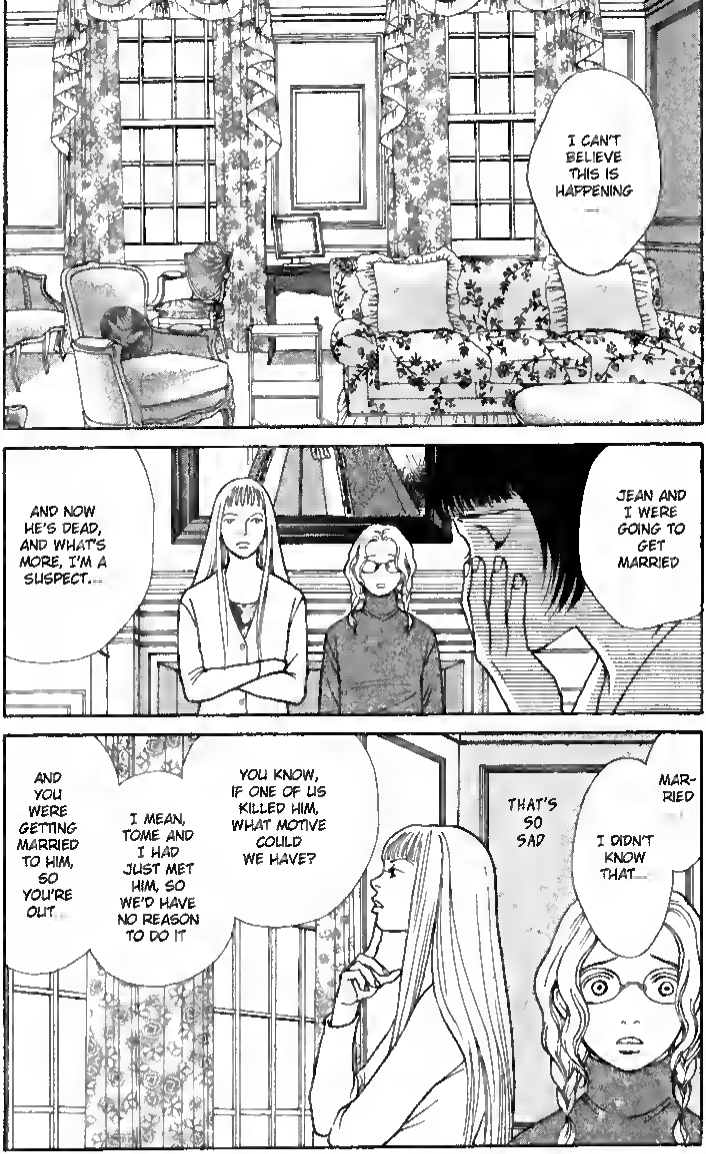

HMPH


THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, DETECTIVE?

OH!
IT'S THAT GHOST STORY FROM WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN SCHOOL, RIGHT, JINNO?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REAL REASON I BECAME A DETECTIVE?
BELIEVE...

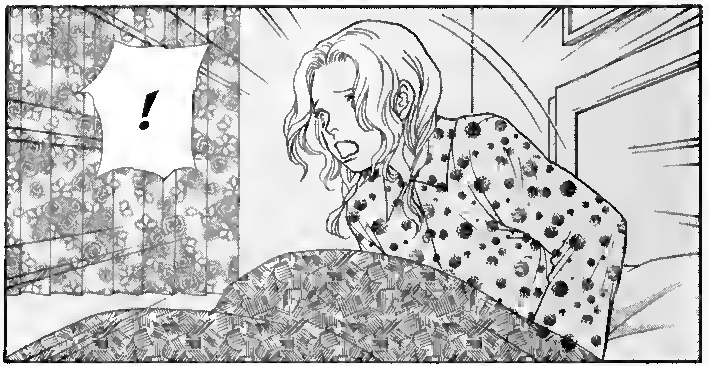

IT WAS WITH THAT INVESTIGATION THAT HE BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A DETECTIVE.
AND IT TURNED OUT THAT IT WAS JUST THE NIGHT GUARD PRACTICING KARAOKE
TO SEE IF IT WAS TRUE, JINNO WENT TO THE BUILDING AFTER DARK,
THE RUMOR WAS THAT AT NIGHT YOU COULD HEAR MOANING NOISES AT HIS SCHOOL
LOOK -- HE'S NOT GOING TO DROP IT.
THAT GUY'S NEVER GOING TO GET PROMOTED.
He was singing Star's Flamenco night?

ANYWAY, I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING...
JEAN AND I WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED
AND NOW HE'S DEAD, AND WHAT'S MORE, I'M A SUSPECT...
MAR-RIED
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...
THAT'S SO SAD
YOU KNOW, IF ONE OF US KILLED HIM, WHAT MOTIVE COULD WE HAVE?
I MEAN, TOME AND I HAD JUST MET HIM, SO WE'D HAVE NO REASON TO DO IT
AND YOU WERE GETTING MARRIED TO HIM, SO YOU'RE OUT...

A CURSE
EVERY-ONE'S GOING TO DIE FROM THE GHOST'S CURSE!
EH?!
SO IT WAS YOU!
JUST KIDDING. WE CAN'T JUST ARBITRARILY DECIDE LIKE THAT
DUMP DUMP
CHARLES!
AND I'M GOING TO BE NEXT!
.....

AHHHHHHHHH!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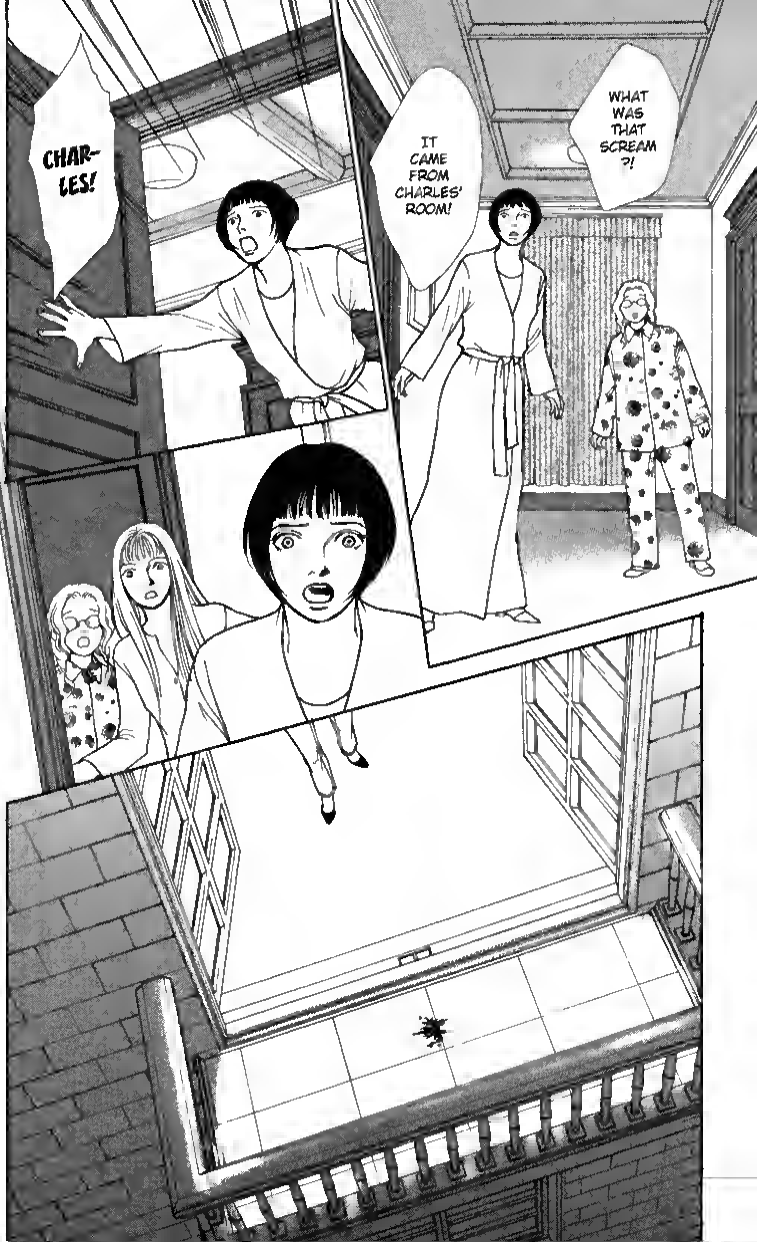
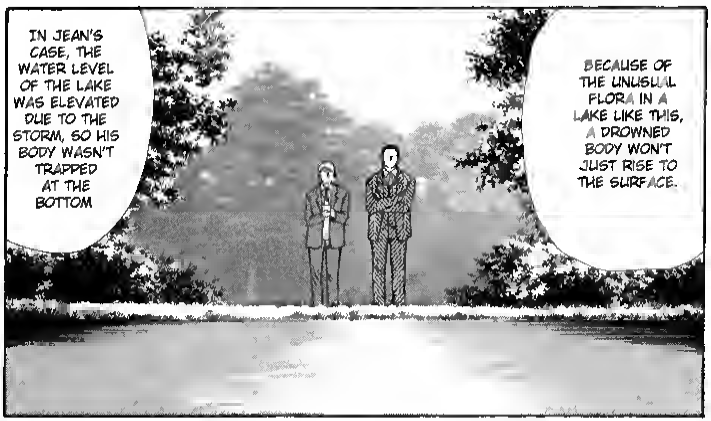
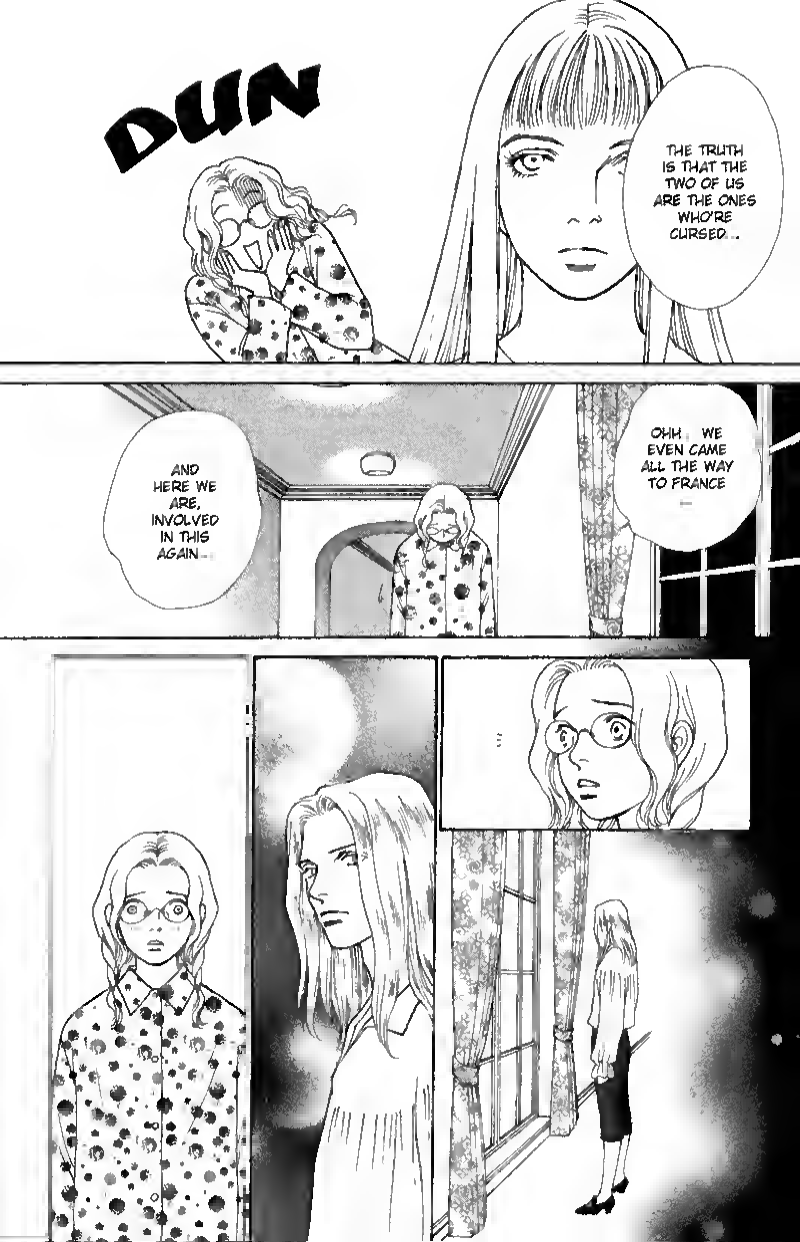
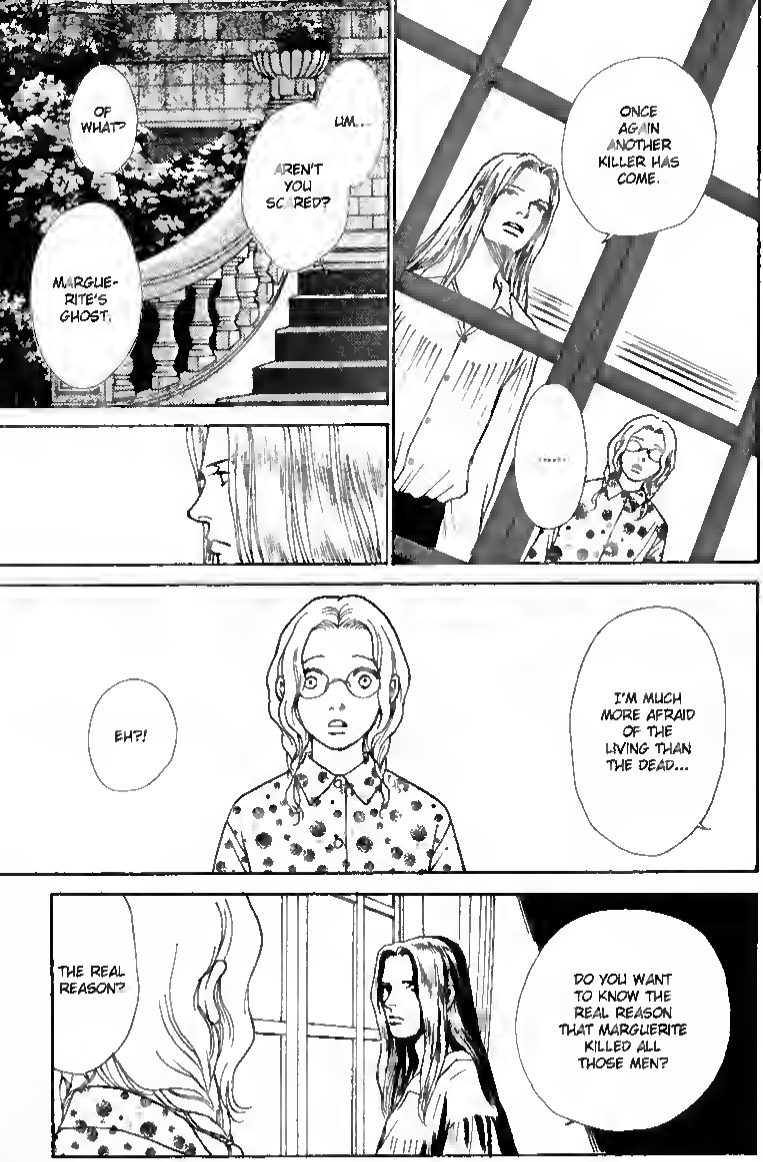

WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?!
IT CAME FROM CHARLES' ROOM!
CHAR-LES!

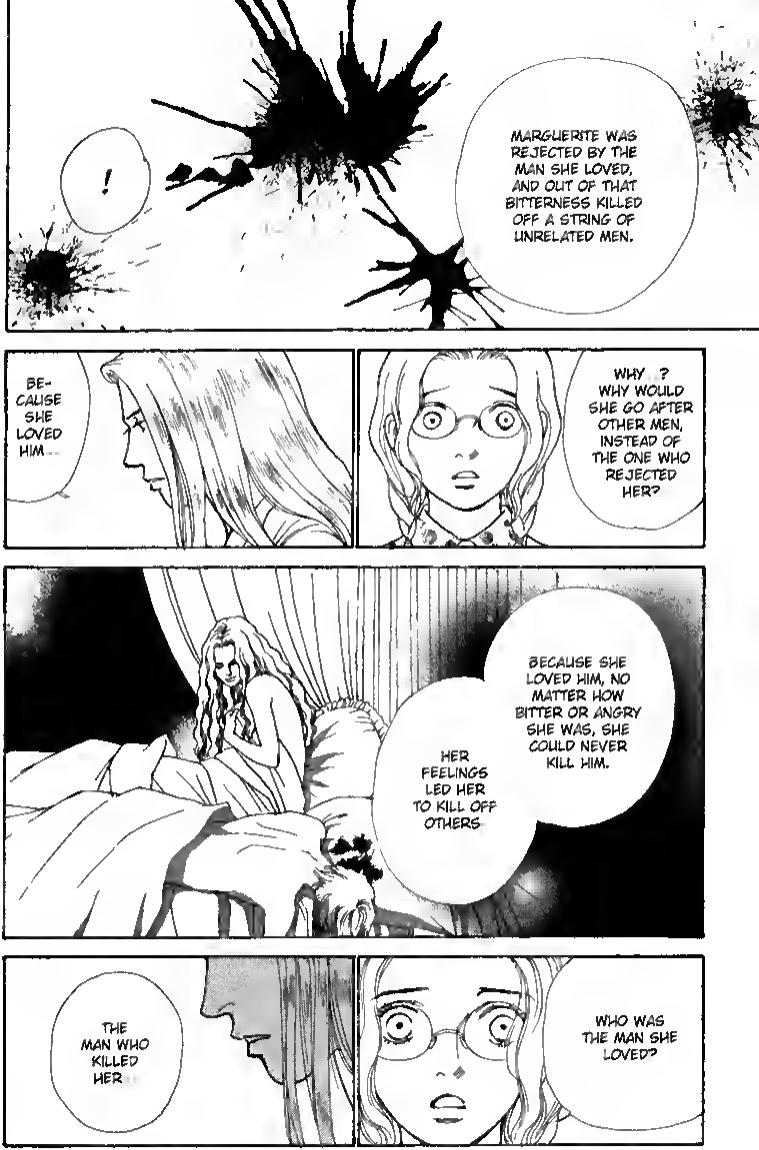
HM...
BLOOD...
DETECTIVE JINNO
HE WAS PUSHED FROM HERE AND FELL IN...?
A SECOND VICTIM...
WOBBLE
ELAINE ?!


IN JEAN'S CASE, THE WATER LEVEL OF THE LAKE WAS ELEVATED DUE TO THE STORM, SO HIS BODY WASN'T TRAPPED AT THE BOTTOM
BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL FLORA IN A LAKE LIKE THIS, A DROWNED BODY WON'T JUST RISE TO THE SURFACE.

AND SO, SINCE THE WATER HAD RETURNED TO ITS NORMAL LEVEL LAST NIGHT, THE BODY WOULDN'T RISE TO THE SURFACE, WOULD IT...?
IS THERE REALLY A CURSE?
A TOTAL OF ONE, TWO, FOUR...
WHO KNOWS
BUT AS IT STANDS, WITH THE MURDER SPREE, YOU COULD ONLY CALL IT A CURSE
FOUR?!
YEAH, FOUR PEOPLE HAVE DIED SINCE THE LAST MURDER CASE.


DUN
THE TRUTH IS THAT THE TWO OF US ARE THE ONES WHO'RE CURSED...
OHH... WE EVEN CAME ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE...
AND HERE WE ARE, INVOLVED IN THIS AGAIN...

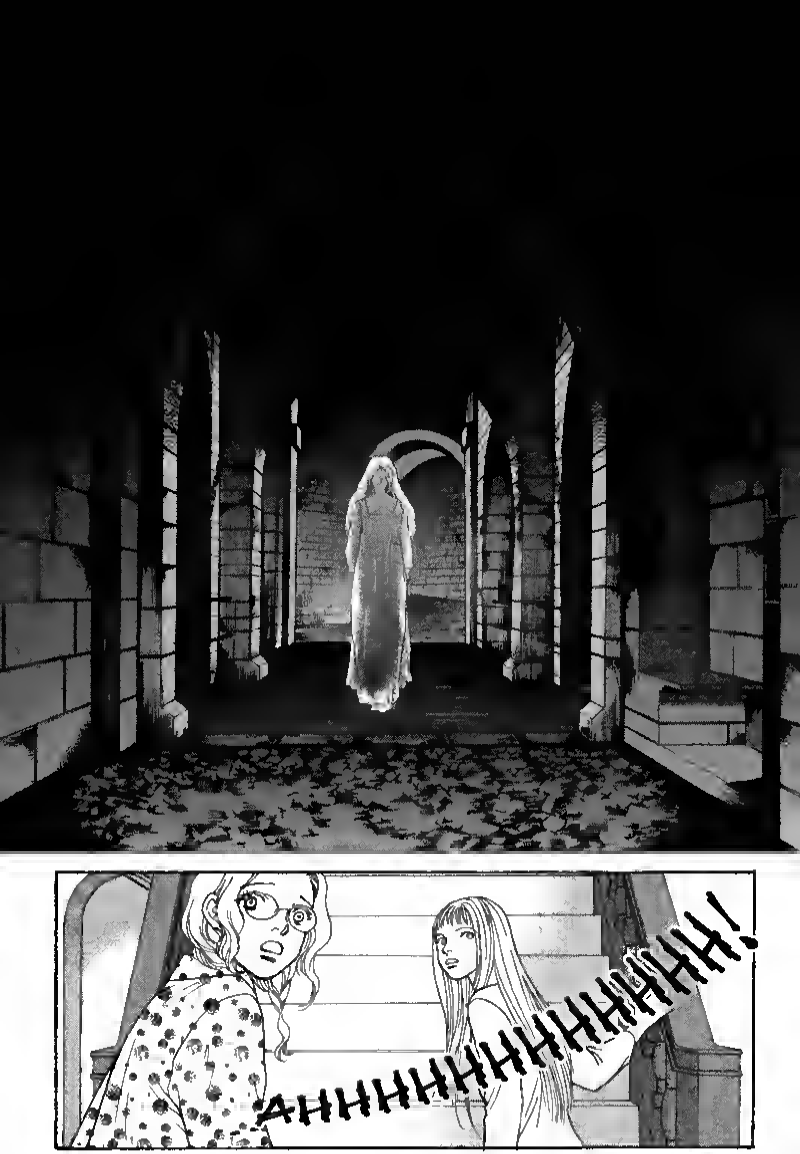

UM...
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
OF WHAT?
MARGUERITE'S GHOST.
ONCE AGAIN ANOTHER KILLER HAS COME.
.....
EH?!
I'M MUCH MORE AFRAID OF THE LIVING THAN THE DEAD...
THE REAL REASON?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REAL REASON THAT MARGUERITE KILLED ALL THOSE MEN?


!
MARGUERITE WAS REJECTED BY THE MAN SHE LOVED, AND OUT OF THAT BITTERNESS KILLED OFF A STRING OF UNRELATED MEN.
BE-CAUSE SHE LOVED HIM...
WHY...? WHY WOULD SHE GO AFTER OTHER MEN, INSTEAD OF THE ONE WHO REJECTED HER?
BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM, NO MATTER HOW BITTER OR ANGRY SHE WAS, SHE COULD NEVER KILL HIM.
HER FEELINGS LED HER TO KILL OFF OTHERS
THE MAN WHO KILLED HER!!
WHO WAS THE MAN SHE LOVED?

BUT HE LOVED HER. THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE HER LIKE THAT, AND KILLED HER, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN SHE LOVED HER COUSIN?
KILLED HER?
YES... HE COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE HER LIKE THAT, AND KILLED HER...
HE COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE WHAT SHE HAD BECOME ON ACCOUNT OF HIM...
TOME...
NO MATTER THE ERA, WOMEN ARE TRULY TERRIBLE...
.....

HE'S GONE...
DETECTIVE JINNO SAID TO COME TO THE LIVING ROOM
CHK

WHO'S THERE?!

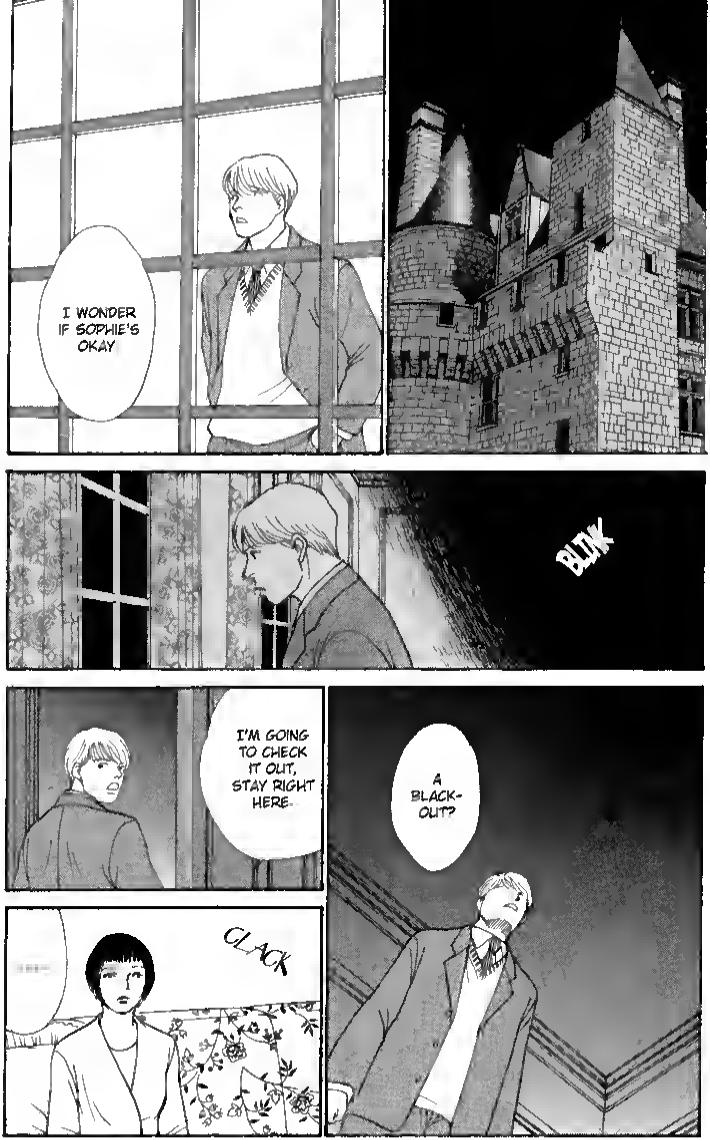

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

ELAINE, HANG IN THERE!
ELAINE?!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
... OH!
WE'RE CURSED ...
HER GHOST IS ANGRY BECAUSE I PULLED THAT STUPID TRICK!
IT WAS RIGHT HERE!
HER GHOST!
MARGUE-RITE...

ELAINE!
I'M GOING TO DIE!
ELAINE, CALM DOWN!
SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME NEXT!
I JUST SAW IT!
MARGUERITE APPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
IT WASN'T A DREAM! THERE REALLY IS A GHOST HERE!
NO WAY ...
SO CURSES REALLY DO EXIST...

DON'T TELL ME...
OH!
WAIT, WHAT ABOUT SOPHIE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER RECENTLY
KAMOI, STAY WITH ELAINE!
WE'LL GO CHECK AROUND THE LAKE!
YES SIR!

SOPHIE!
SOPHIE!
!
HER SHOE!
MARGUERITE'S CURSE...
IT CAN'T BE...


I WONDER IF SOPHIE'S OKAY
BLINK
I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT, STAY RIGHT HERE.
A BLACK-OUT?
CLACK

JUMP
MARGUE-RITE!
MA...
AHHH!

!
A SCREAM FROM INSIDE!
ELAINE!
ELAINE!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
WHAT'S WRONG?! PULL IT TOGET-HER!
KAMOI?!
AH

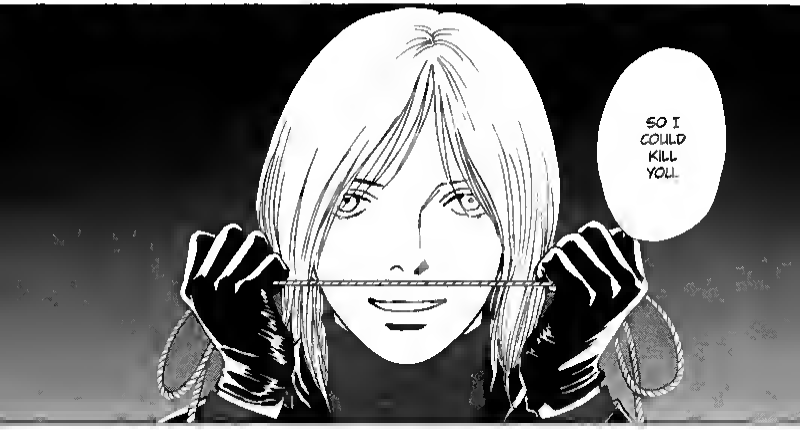
.....
AND WHEN I WENT TO CHECK ON IT, SOMEONE HIT ME FROM BEHIND...
THE LIGHTS IN THE ROOM WENT OUT,
!
WHAT ABOUT ELAINE?
WHERE'D SHE GO?!
SHE'S NOT HERE...

ELAINE!
ELAINE, WHERE ARE YOU?!
OH NO, ANOTHER VICTIM...
VICTIM?!
MARGUERITE'S CURSE AGAIN...?
NO, IT'S NOT A CURSE.
THIS IS A CASE OF SYSTEMATIC MURDER

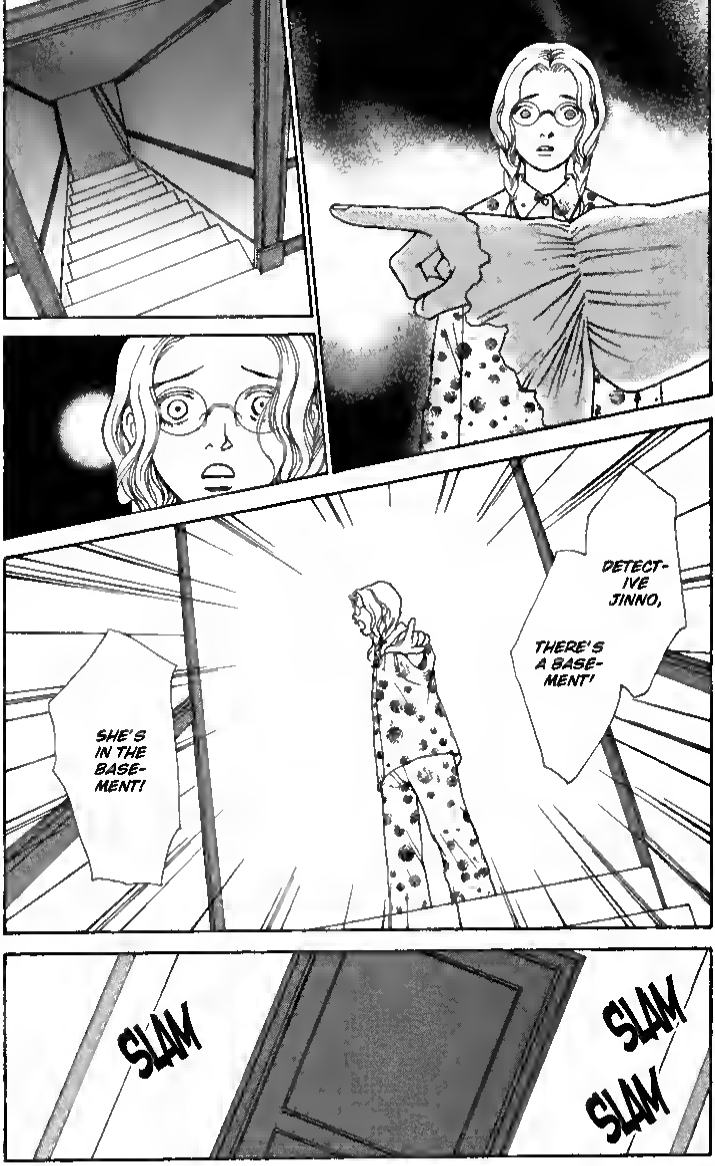
MARGUE-
RITE?!

CHARLES?!
HOW CAN THIS BE...?!
YOU DIED!
I JUST STAGED MY DEATH.
A LITTLE ACTING AND SOME BLOOD. TOSS A STONE OVER THE TERRACE AND IT'S DONE

WHY...?
WHY?!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!


SO I COULD KILL YOU.

ELAINE!
ELAINE!
SHE HAS TO BE IN THE CASTLE SOME-WHERE!
DAMN.
WHERE IS SHE?!
PAT

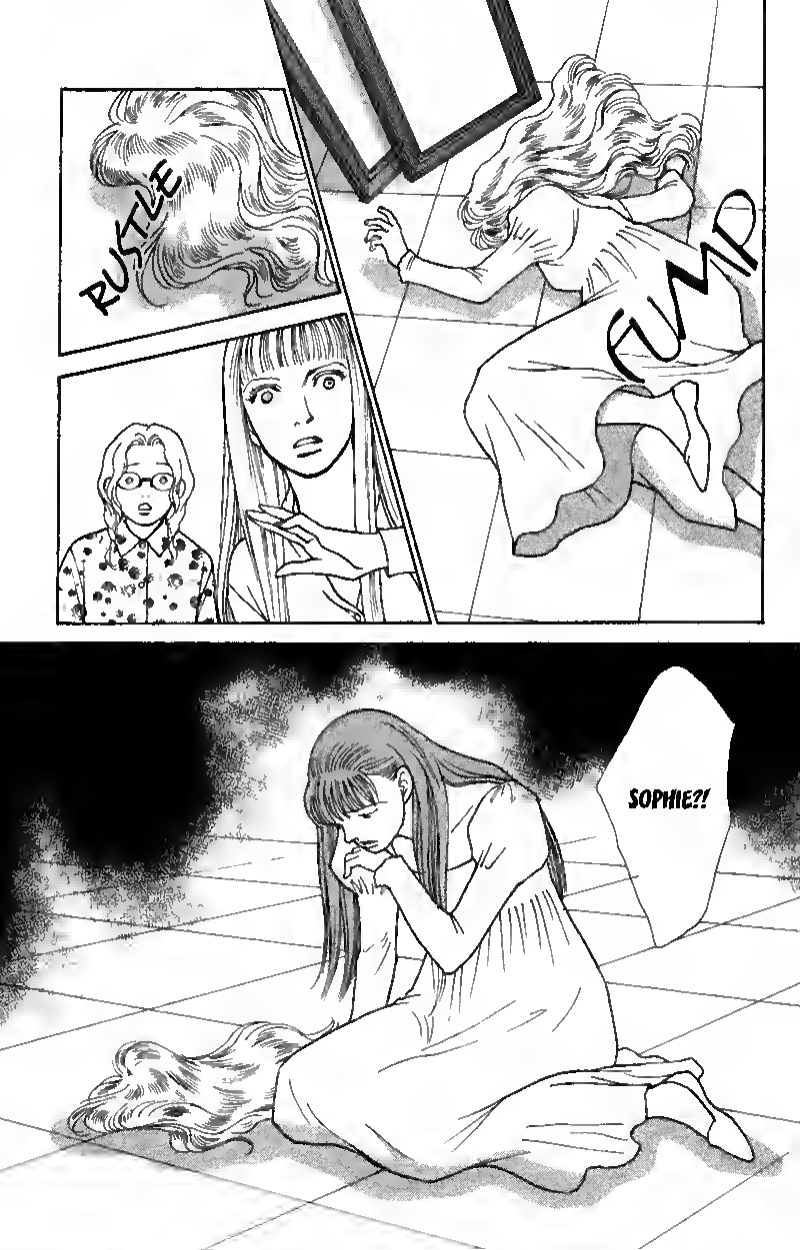

DETECT-IVE JINNO,
THERE'S A BASE-MENT!
SHE'S IN THE BASE-MENT!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM

ASH
CR
BANG
BANG
ELAINE!
ELAINE, ARE YOU OKAY?!

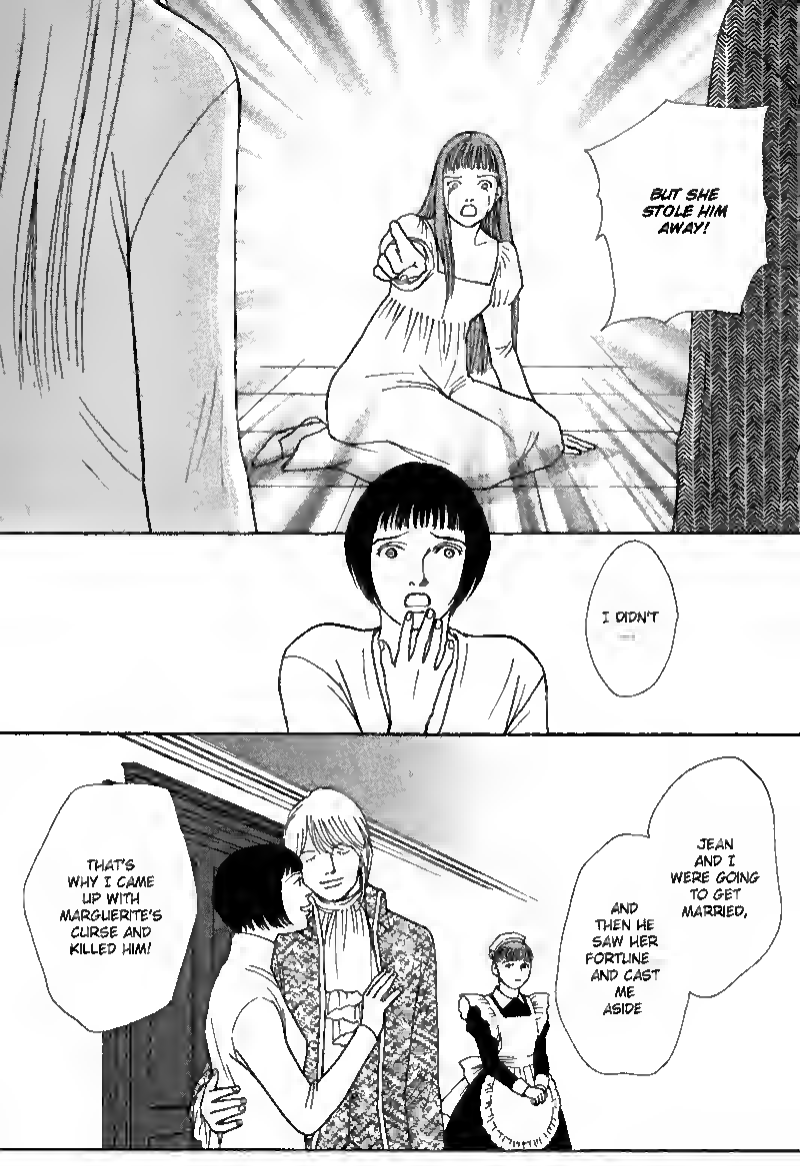
LET GO OF HER!
!
THUD
DETECT-IVE JINNO!

SHINK
EEK!
SLAM

THUD


RUSTLE
THUMP
SOPHIE?!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
SOPHIE?!
WHAT IS THIS?!
CHARLES IS MY BROTHER.
AND—
JEAN USED TO BE MY BOYFRIEND


BUT SHE STOLE HIM AWAY!
I DIDN'T
JEAN AND I WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED,
AND THEN HE SAW HER FORTUNE AND CAST ME ASIDE
THAT'S WHY I CAME UP WITH MARGUERITE'S CURSE AND KILLED HIM!

AFTER JE IN TOOK HIS SLEEPING PILL AND PASSED OUT, CHARLES CARRIED HIM TO THE LAKE AND TOSSED HIM IN.
THEN TO KEEP CHARLES AND I FROM SUSPICION
FAKED OUR DEATHS
AFTER WE KILLED YOU AND TOSSED YOU IN THE LAKE, MY REVENGE WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETE—
AND SINCE THE BODY WOULDN'T SURFACE, YOU FIGURED YOU COULD BLAME IT ON THE CURSE AND GET AWAY—

CHARLES ONLY HELPED ME OUT BECAUSE HE FELT SORRY FOR ME...
I WAS THE ONE WHO PLANNED IT ALL AND SET IT INTO MOTION...
WAAAAAAA-!

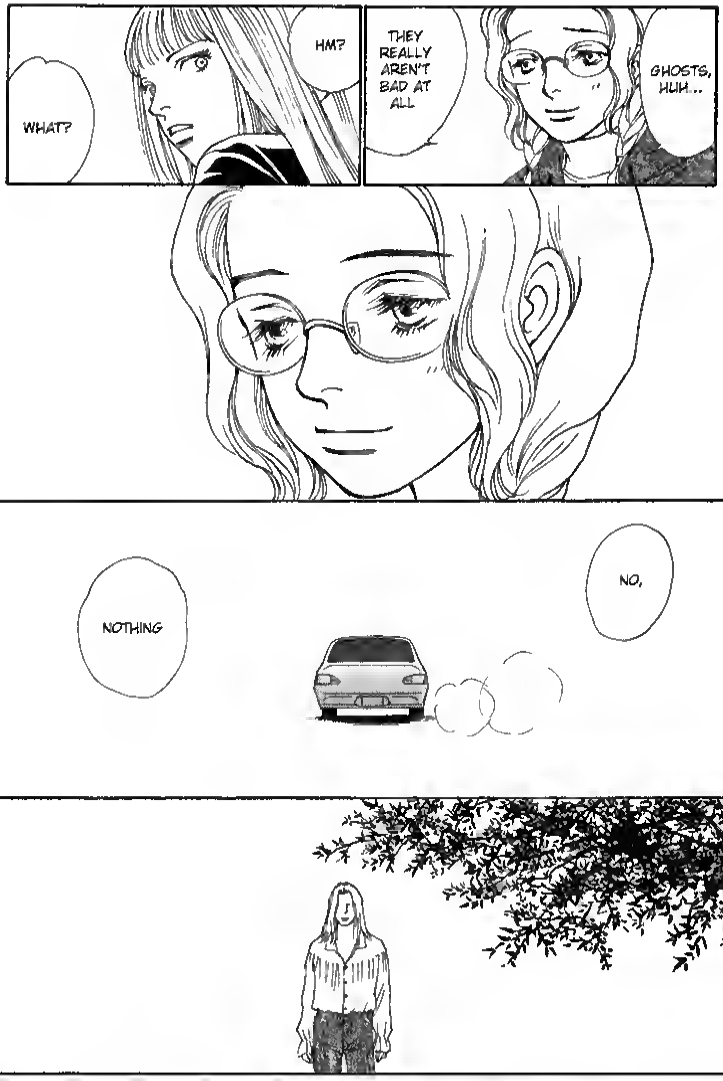
I NEVER BELIEVED IN THE CURSE AT ALL
PRETTY MUCH
DID YOU KNOW THESE WERE PLANNED MURDERS FROM THE START?
JUST A LITTLE LONGER AND ELAINE WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED
THAT ASIDE, HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE WAS BEING HELD THERE, TOME?
EH?!
OH NO, IT WASN'T ME ONE OF THE GUYS PLAYING A GHOST TOLD ME

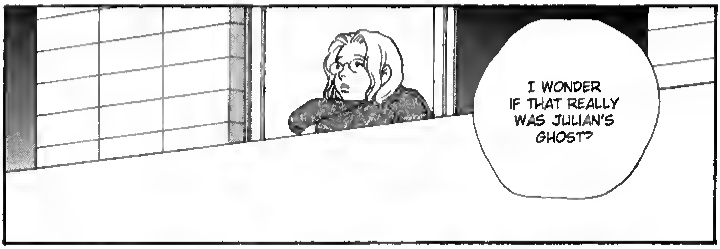
EH?!
PLAY-ING A GHOST ...
BUT JEAN AND CHARLES WERE THE ONLY ONES I HIRED ...
THERE ISN'T A GUY WITH LONG PALE HAIR HERE...
IT'S THE CUTE GUY WITH THE LONG PALE HAIR...
WHAT'S THIS?
AN UNFINISHED PORTRAIT.

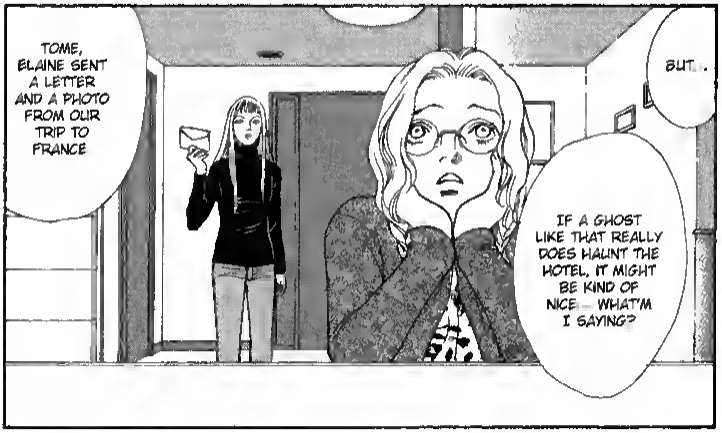
THAT'S A PORTRAIT OF MARGUERITE'S COUSIN, JULIAN
HE KILLED MARGUERITE AND DIED HIMSELF BEFORE THE PICTURE WAS FINISHED.
THAT'S HIM!
.....

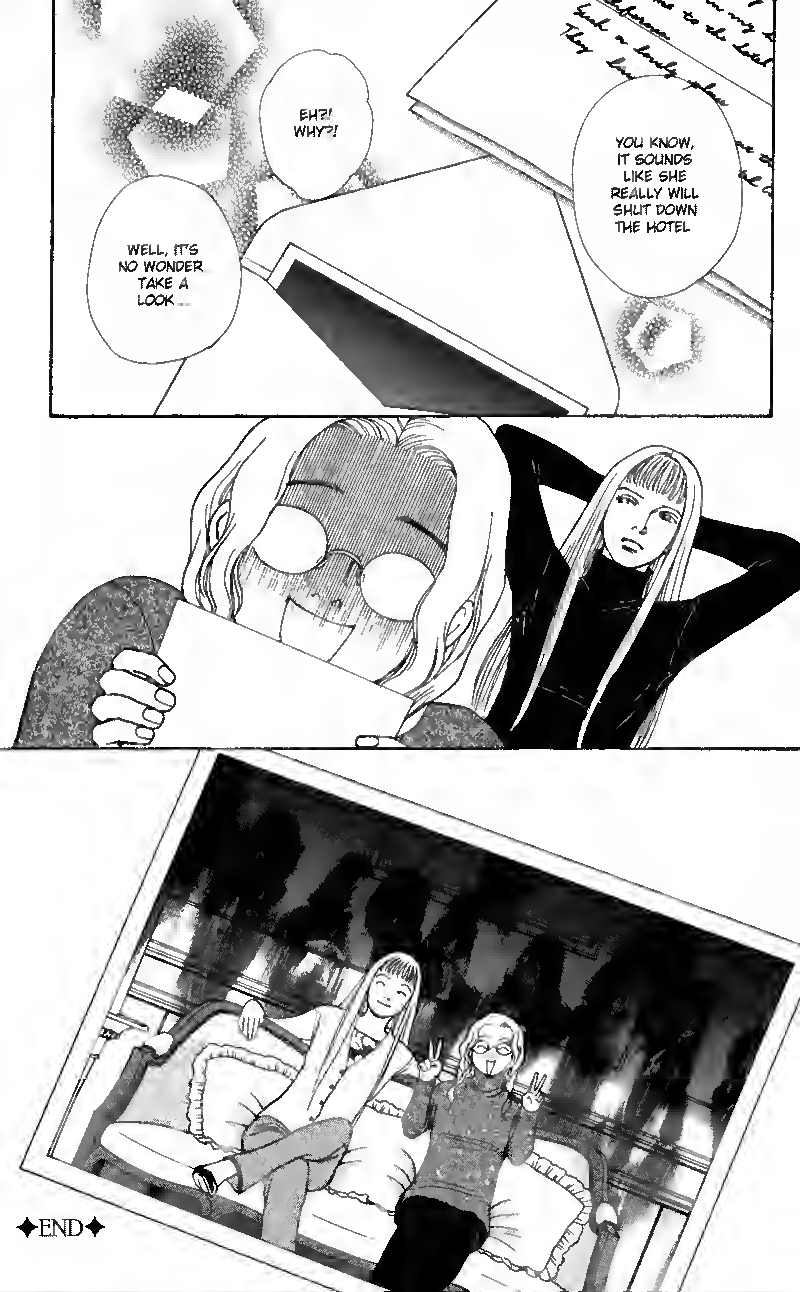
I'M SO SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE
OH NO, YOU WERE THE VICTIM HERE.
NO .. I BROUGHT IT ALL UPON MYSELF!!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT HAPPENED TO SOPHIE IS JUST TERRIBLE AS WELL.

NO, I PLAN TO STICK TO MANAGING THE HOTEL.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, ELAINE?
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP ON THE GHOST HOTEL IDEA?
I'M JUST GOING TO OPEN IT AS A REGULAR HOTEL.
BUT I'VE HAD MY FILL OF GHOSTS.
I SEE.
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE!
BYE, ELAINE! SEE YOU!


WHAT?
HM?
THEY REALLY AREN'T BAD AT ALL
GHOSTS, HUH...
NOTHING
NO,


I WONDER IF THAT REALLY WAS JULIAN'S GHOST?


TOME, ELAINE SENT A LETTER AND A PHOTO FROM OUR TRIP TO FRANCE
BUT...
IF A GHOST LIKE THAT REALLY DOES HAUNT THE HOTEL, IT MIGHT BE KIND OF NICE— WHAT'M I SAYING?


EH?! WHY?!
YOU KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE REALLY WILL SHUT DOWN THE HOTEL
WELL, IT'S NO WONDER TAKE A LOOK...
✦END✦

KCB 1389

タマラ

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講談社

9784063413892

1929979003906

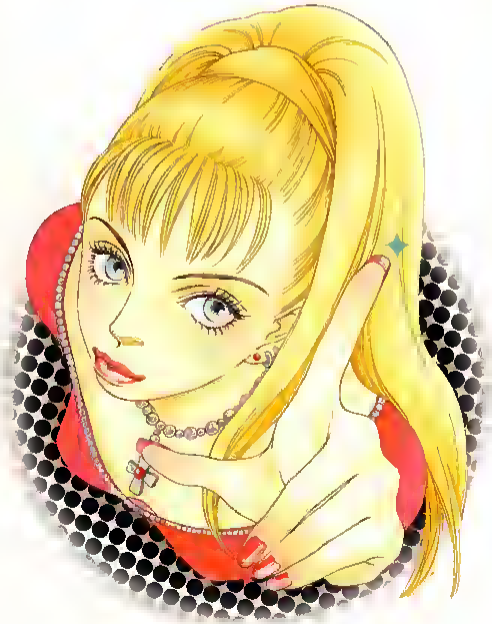
雑誌 41673-89

ISBN4-06-341389-6

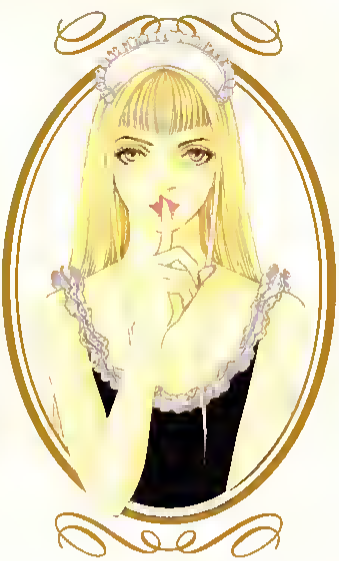
C9979 ¥390E (0)

KC BETSUFURE 講談社
定価 本体390円
(税別)

スーパーモデル・タマラの行く先々で起こる謎の殺人事件——。
その美貌と野性の勘で、鮮やかに事件解決……なるか!?
華麗なるサスペンス・ストーリー!!



Tamara



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